

Yobs leave trail of damage after horses are targeted

REWARD OFFER ON STABLES RAID

Report by Craig Hughes

A REWARD has been offered and a police appeal made for information after vandals smashed their way into a stables in Brownhills leaving behind a trail of damage.

More than 20 horses managed to get free with staff and volunteers having to round them all up, with many on the nearby Clayhanger estate.

The group of yobs are believed to have smashed eight locks, chains and cut through fences at Stevie Ansell's Horse Riding and Therapy Centre, off Pelsall Road, last Monday evening.

Some foals aged just between three to seven weeks were allowed to run free with mature horses causing the risk of serious injury.

While one of the oldest, 25 year-old Showdoo, was ridden on and whipped with a stick after being taken out of the paddock during the incident. There is a reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone responsible for what happened.

Fencing

A total of 21 horses managed to get out as some paddocks at the 50-acre site were wedged open, but were all returned to the stables.

The majority ended up near the Clayhanger residential estate, but did not cause any damage. Some ended up at the bottom of fields near Ryders Hayes. The stables has already been targeted up to four times this year and the last attack is expected to have caused up to £400 damage alone.

Locks and fencing will need to be replaced and the business' Jeep was also damaged. It is believed they may have tried to steal the on-site vehicle. Owner Stevie Ansell was alerted after 9pm on Monday by friends in Clayhanger and with the help of volunteers managed to get the horses back in by around 12.30am on Tuesday.

She condemned those responsible and said: "They are just low-lives. They would have had to know where the gates are. We have reports they were actually shooting them. We got them all back but it could have caused a lot of danger."

"They could have caused accidents on the road. The whole community is horrified, my phone has not stopped ringing" Anyone with information is urged to call police or Stevie on 07950 314091.

FIFTH YEAR PUT ON THE BOARD FOR CHESS MATES



Eunice and Ray Dolan with national junior champions Alex Dinoo, aged six, Krishan Patel, eight, Dylan Rehman, seven, Andrew Fenn, 12 and Dominic Holmes, 10 at Bloxwich Junior Chess Club celebrating its fifth anniversary at Ryecroft Community Hub, in Coalpool

A CHESS club in Walsall responsible for producing some of the finest young players in the country is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Bloxwich Junior Chess Club, based at Ryecroft Community Hub in Coalpool, has produced many young chess masters including 10-year-old Dominic Holmes.

Dominic is the national champion for his age group and recently was picked for England under-10s to play against Wales in Monmouth, finishing the day with one win and one loss to his name.

Ray Dolan founded the club with his wife

Eunice. He said: "It is a great milestone to reach. We have been going for five years now. We started with six players at the club and now we have 37."

"We have had 16 UK chess mega finalists since we opened and every one of them who has come through has really improved."

The club is not home to just one national champion, under Ray and Eunice's tutelage several youngsters have gone on to achieve success at the Megafinals. These include under seven chess supremos Alex Dinoo and Dylan Rehman, under eight champion Krishan Patel

and 12-year-old national winner Andrew Fenn. "If a child learns how to play chess their school work will improve by seven per cent in a year," Mr Dolan said.

Mr and Mrs Dolan opened the Bloxwich Chess League in April, which sees children play competitively once every month, with one hour on the clock and all games graded.

Bloxwich Junior Chess Club runs every Saturday morning for children aged five to 18 from 10-11.30am. For details call Mr Dolan on 07815540866 or email raymondolan5@gmail.com

MUSIC

Elton gig may open gates to more stars

BOSSES at the Banks's stadium are still buzzing after Sir Elton John's gig and they say it may pave the way for other big-name acts at the stadium. Fourteen thousand fans were there on Saturday for what was described by many as a once-in-a-lifetime event.

But the musical icon hinted that the show could be one of his last. During an uninterrupted two-and-a-half hour set, the 68-year-old performer appeared emotional as he told the crowd: "It won't go on forever, I want to see my boys grow up."

DEVELOPMENT

£17m homes set to transform area

WORK is on track for a £17 million scheme to transform a rundown area of Brownhills with new waterfront homes for families.

Stripping work has been completed to former flats at Silver Court off Silver Street. The next stage of work will see the flats demolished to make way for 157 homes.

The Walsall Housing Group development will include 62 flats as well as homes for those struggling to get onto the property ladder.

FASHION

Latest trends all set for college catwalk

FASHION students at Walsall College are set to showcase their creative designs to the public in their annual catwalk show tomorrow, Friday.

The Wisemore Campus' atrium will be transformed with an elevated catwalk.

A range of collections that fashion students have worked hard on throughout the year will be unveiled, with themes including steam punk and American sport.

The catwalk models will have their hair, make-up and body art styled by hair and beauty students, while the evening will be hosted by performing arts students. Tickets are priced at £5. Call 01922 688569.

INSIDE

ROCKET MAN BLASTS OFF



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Saturday night is all right as stadium gets Crocodile Rocked



Love was in the air during one of Elton's ballads



One fan is seen really getting into the spec-tacle



Just the ticket for Stephen Taylor and Gill Evans



Fans Frank and Nuala Nagi, from Pelsall

Thousands still standing after Elton's amazing show

'I HAVE grown up with the songs and now I play them to my children. His music is timeless.'

This fan's words were echoed by the thousands of others eagerly packed into Banks's Stadium for a once-in-a-lifetime performance by Sir Elton John, writes Katy-Rose Meaney.

"He is a legend," continues the excited Emma Fox, 31, from Aldridge. "I am honoured to see him perform. It is my first time and to see him sing in my home town is the icing on the cake. The show was incredible and the atmosphere was fantastic."

Emma was one of the 14,000 fans who watched the legend perform in Walsall – a location hand-picked by Sir Elton himself.

True to his rock and roll roots, the Rocket Man singer arrived on Saturday by helicopter. But that was where the A-list behaviour stopped, as there was no dramatic start to the show and he didn't keep his fans waiting.

The musician simply walked on stage, waved politely to the adoring audience in front of him and sat down at his black Yamaha piano in a dazzling, sequin-covered suit, featuring the initials 'EJ' on the back.

Lyrics

Thousands of fans of all ages flocked to the football ground when gates opened at 5pm, ready to see an icon at work. The threatening wet weather did nothing to dampen their spirits as people – many dressed in wacky glasses, brightly-coloured suits and even Union Flag jackets – chanted the lyrics to Sir Elton's best-known songs as they flooded through the gates.

It was a show for all generations for the Coates family from Pelsall. Mother Lisa said: "I've been a fan for around 30 years and my son James became a fan when he started playing the keyboard when he was seven. I've always wanted to see him live and here is just perfect." To kick-start the night, support act Bright Light Bright Light entertained the crowd ahead of the arrival of the main man.

Once on stage, Sir Elton let his legendary status do most of the talking, although he did thank the audience and the football club.

He opened his set with Funeral for a Friend/Love Lies Bleeding before performing a selection of songs from the Goodbye Yellow Brick Road album, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Fans stood



14,000 enjoyed the amazing performance by the star with the rain mostly holding off



You want more? Elton gets the Banks's crowd worked up

and absorbed his performances, not taking their eyes off his fingers dancing across the piano as they bashed out each classic on the stage. He went on to perform Candle in the Wind – the first song to have the entire crowd singing along, word for word.

Sir Elton talked to the crowd throughout the gig, thanking them for their years of support.

He said it was "wonderful to be here", adding: "Thank you, thank you, thank you. For your loyalty, your spirit and generosity through good times and bad," he said. The former Watford chairman is believed to have chosen the venue because he had fond memories of the football club.

"You have been an amazing audience Walsall. God bless the football club," he said.

"Thank you Walsall Football Club for making me so welcome. I hope you have a fabulous season."

At the end of the two-and-a-half-hour gig, the 68-year-old simply bowed to the audience and left the stage with no more drama than when he entered. He came back on stage to sign autographs with lucky fans in the front row before ending the night with an encore of just one more song, Crocodile Rock. For many supporters it was the experience of a lifetime, but for those who missed out, could it be too late to see Elton perform?

The Tiny Dancer star hinted that he 'could not go on forever' and wanted to see his children grow up.

He also told the crowd that it had been an 'incredible journey' and he takes each of them with him when he leaves the stage, with them a part of the adrenalin that stays with him.

After the lights went out, the crowds bounced out the stadium, again chanting lyrics and chatting excitedly about what they had witnessed with fans saying it was 'the best show they had ever seen'.

If there's one thing this Walsall gig proved, it is that's Sir Elton is most definitely still standing.

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Security is stepped up after raids on garages

THIEVES raided two bus garages in Wolverhampton and Walsall where it is believed around £200 to £300 in cash was taken.

Security has now been stepped up at National Express bus garages across the West Midlands.

In the Wolverhampton raid, police were called just after 1.30am on Friday to the garage on Park Lane.

Detective Darren Jones, from Wolverhampton Police said: "Four men had already fled the scene by the time officers arrived just two minutes after the 999 call was received. A fifth threw empty cash boxes stolen in the raid at an officer chasing him down Park Lane towards Hallam Crescent. The man then jumped in a car used in the crime which made-off towards the city centre.

Confirm

"Witnesses have been spoken with and CCTV is currently being reviewed. Forensic investigators have visited the site in a search for clues."

The full Walsall details have not yet been revealed by police but National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We can confirm there were two incidences, one at out Walsall and one at our Wolverhampton garages late last week. The police have visited the sites and have launched full investigations into the matter. We have increased our security on site at all of our locations."

Payout over illegal ciggies

POLICE seized 10,000 smuggled cigarettes from the home of a self-employed Walsall labourer.

Nathan Wigley was ordered to pay a total of £2,626 by the town's magistrates when he admitted an offence of the fraudulent evasion of excise duty.

The case related to the discovery of 10,000 non-UK duty paid cigarettes seized from his home, in Dartmouth Avenue, Coalpool, by officers as part of an HM Revenue and Customs investigation. Wigley, 31, was arrested and charged with the offence as a result of the seizure.

The value of the tobacco was £2,376 and Wigley was ordered to pay a compensation order to the court for the full amount of duty evaded, which will then be paid back to HMRC.

He was also fined £165 and ordered to pay £85 costs when he appeared before magistrates.

Church to face part-demolition

A TWO-STORY presbytery at a Walsall church will be demolished after expansion plans were given the nod. Extra meeting rooms and office space is earmarked for St Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Streetly.

Elderly patient's family gets invite

WALSALL Manor Hospital chiefs have invited the family of a pensioner who died three weeks after a car crash, to talk with them over any concerns they have over her treatment.

Harpal Cheema was left with fractures to the chest bone and ribs after the car she was in hit a brick wall in Caldmore Road in Caldmore.

Despite being taken to the Manor following the accident on March 9, the 85-year-old was not kept in.

Some days later, after suffering pain at home Mrs Cheema was readmitted on March 26, but died on April 7, three weeks after the car accident.

At an inquest which was held earlier this month, a coroner concluded that her death was accidental.

However, Mr Amir Khan, medical director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Harpal's family.

"We would also like to offer Harpal's family the opportunity to meet with us at the trust to raise any concerns they may have about the care Harpal received."

Fracture

At the inquest, which took place at Smethwick Council House, A&E doctor Satwant Ali said that Mrs Cheema, of Barrow Close, Walsall Wood, arrived at the unit by ambulance and on a spinal board and complained of neck and back pain, but not the chest. An X-ray showed she had a wrist frac-

ture, and Dr Ali told the inquest: "I asked her if she had pain in her chest which she denied."

He told the hearing that he was unaware that she had problems with her joints but would have carried out further checks had he been aware of these issues.

Mrs Cheema's son Navjot, of Charlemont Road, Walsall, told the hearing that in the days after the incident she complained of feeling pain and her condition deteriorated.

Pathologist Dr Ye Lin Hock gave the cause of death as severe bronchopneumonia, sternum and rib fractures with abscesses and blunt chest trauma.

Black Country assistant coroner Mr Angus Smilie returned a conclusion of accidental death.

100 jobs on offer at firm's flagship office

MORE than 100 jobs will be created in Walsall after a Midlands-based firm opened a flagship office in the town centre.

Amber Windows, which manufactures windows, doors and conservatories, has started trading from a new base in Lower Hall Lane after opening there yesterday.

The firm has already launched a recruitment drive.

Bosses at the company, which employs more than 300 people across its sites in areas such as Birmingham, Coventry and Northampton, say the expansion with its 10th branch will provide a much-needed job boost in the community and help slash unemployment levels.

Dozens of roles in areas such as marketing and sales have already been snapped up.

The firm, which was set up more than 23 years ago and has its headquarters in Roman Way, Coleshill, boasts a turnover of between £22 million and £24m a year.

Company spokesman Kulturn Pattar said: "We want to give back to the community. We want to open in this area because there's a high level of unemployment.

Develop

"We will train everyone from scratch and they don't even need experience, not even a GCSE. This is going to be our flagship branch.

"In this branch alone we will be recruiting in excess of 100 people but we want to open more stores and more branches.

"There will be marketing, sales, call centre roles and more. We have already started recruiting and have taken on about 30 people at the moment. We want to give people the chance to develop a career. It is a big jobs boost for the community."

The firm has opened its new branch in a three-storey office block, which will have its reception on the ground floor, marketing staff based on the first floor and sales staff on the top floor.

Mr Pattar added: "The company is doing £500,000 of business every six days. We are pushing forward. This will be our 10th branch."

It is the latest company to bring scores of jobs to the area. Wiggle recently launched a recruitment drive to fill more than 100 jobs at its new distribution centre in Bilston.

The UK's biggest online cycle retailer needed to fill 140 warehouse roles at its 320,000 sq ft Citadel base.

Anger as branches left on common



Earl Beebe, Douglas Birch, Neal Jones and Pete Dicks, look at some of the waste that is still to be cleared

CAMPAIGNERS who lost their battle to stop hundreds of trees being chopped down on Brownhills Common are now calling for a faster clean-up of the site.

Around 650 conifer trees were felled from the common after nearby residents failed to stop the work. It was carried out after the Government's environmental adviser Natural England said tree management work was necessary.

Following the work, officers from Walsall Council said the fallen branches which have been left lying on the ground would be

cleared up. But Barry Poxon, of the Friends of Brownhills Common Group, said it was taking far too long. "We have told the council that they need to come and the tidy up the scrub and branches left behind from the logging operation," he said. "They keep saying that they will, but seem to be taking an awful long time about it."

Under the original proposals 60 per cent of the trees were to go under the axe, but after an outcry that resulted in 2,000 residents signing a petition against it, the figure was reduced and instead 30

per cent from two wooded areas at the nature reserve have been removed.

Walsall Council's environmental resources officer Kevin Clements said: "Some branches were left at the site after last winter's felling which we are going to remove over the summer. There are no plans to do any felling this year."

Council officers set up public consultation events and around 1,500 brochures were distributed in the town to update residents about the felling plans in 2013.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Little ukuleles help total fly

UKULELE music and a guest speaker raised £200 for an emergency helicopter service. Guests Jon Baddery and the Aldridge Ukulele Band were the main attractions when Great Wyrley Local History Society held a charity night for Midland Air Ambulance.

More than 120 people attended The George Formby evening at Great Wyrley Sports and Social Club, in Walsall Road, last month.

The society's chairman Gary Smith said: "After all costs were taken out we were proud to send the Midland Air Ambulance a cheque for £100."

Brewing up for Beacon event

A LEADING Midlands brewer will be providing a tippie at Bands on the Beacon later this month.

The award-winning Backyard Brewhouse who will be offering up a selection of their finest craft beers at the weekend of music on June 27 and 28.

The drinks available will include the Backyard Blonde, D&B Porter along with the Backyard Dry cider.

The event is running from 12.30-6pm on both days and costs £4 for adults. For more information visit the www.bandsonthebeacon.co.uk website.

Burger King is up and running

A FAST food restaurant was opened in a shopping centre in Walsall, creating 15 new jobs. Burger King was officially opened at the Saddlers Centre on Saturday by town Mayor Councillor Angela Underhill.

Topland, which owns the Saddlers Centre, is aiming to create a food hub. Steve Pope, asset director of Topland, said Burger King would add to the likes of Subway, Greggs and Costa. Area manager James Curtis said he was delighted with the new store.

100,000 snooping incidents by police

WEST Midlands Police intercepted people's phone, email and internet records nearly 100,000 times in three years using snooping powers – the second highest rate in the country.

The force used powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 98,095 times during a three-year period between 2012 and 2014. Nationally, police forces across the UK are requesting access communications data every two minutes new research reveals.

Delays due on M6

MOTORISTS have been reminded to expect delays between the M6 at Junction 10 for Walsall and Junction 11 for Cannock in both directions as lighting upgrade works continue.

Various lane closures will be in place from 10pm until 6am, and are expected to last until June 30.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



EIGHT thousand bank workers are to be sacked at the flick of a computer switch. The redundancies at HSBC remind us that, while banks may treat us customers with indifference, they reserve their real nastiness for their own loyal, hard-working and long-serving staff.

THE recent recall of "gluten-free" products from supermarkets following fears they may contain gluten, exposes one of life's little oddities. If you add icing to buns, the buns cost more. If you add currants to buns, the buns cost more. But if you remove gluten from buns, the buns still cost more.

AN academic caused a row a couple of weeks ago by referring to erasers as 'an instrument of the devil' for encouraging kids to hide and ignore their mistakes. I bet ye ancient mason who carved a plaque in Beer church may disagree. Mounted on the wall, it praises the memory of Edward Good, an 'industrious fisherman' who left an endowment of £20 to the poor. Having finished his plaque the mason no doubt sat back to admire it. That's when he would have noticed the bit about how the money was to be 'distributed', and no doubt muttered the Almighty's name.

"A NATION engorged on cupcakes is a nation in decline." The Daily Telegraph in full harrumphing mode this week, deploring the popularity of the American treat.

YES, the official photos of Prince George and his baby sister Charlotte are sweet. But that is no



excuse for one of Fleet Street's finest putting up the headline: "Their Royal Cutenesses." This is England, not Disneyland.

WE no longer speak English as the

Queen used to speak it, in the days when monarchs dwelled in pellisses and the lower orders lived in hices. But you do occasionally catch a morsel of genuine 1950s Windsorese. In the streets of Leamington Spa a few days ago I heard an old chap explaining, in a cut-glass accent, that the wind was "dine dine". Dying down.

ARISE, Sir Lenworth. Lenny Henry's knighthood was only a matter of time and I bet within a few years he will be in the House of Lords. Not a bad result for a working-class lad from Dudley who has spent his entire adult life doing stuff he loves.

MORE linguistic confusion. After the UK/US mix-ups over fags and rubbers, a reader writes: "My wife is Ukrainian. When Ukrainian friends visit us for the first time, we always have fun telling the female visitor that I am going to take her husband to a public house (in her language a public house is a brothel)."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Film-makers focusing on horror

GHOSTS, blood and spine-tingling plots feature in a horror movie being made by a pair of award-winning Walsall film-makers who are teaming up for a brand new production.

Talented producers Dave Hastings and Kaush Patel last year won the Best British Film category at The London Film Awards for their film Checking In that was shot at Baron's Court Hotel in Walsall Wood.

Now the pair have come up with a new anthology project The House of Screaming Death, a nod to the classic Hammer and Amicus gothic series of the 1960s and 1970s that will cost £7,000.

They are launching an online fundraising appeal to complete their latest shoestring project that is being filmed at the Manor House visitor attraction, in West Bromwich, that

featured on TV show Great British Ghosts. The film script includes an adaptation of the ghostly Lady in Grey, blood curdling events that happened in a village terrorised by a chilling vampire.

Mr Patel, a technician at Walsall College, said: "Our last film, the hugely successful Checking In has been seen by audiences worldwide to great continued critical acclaim

and was made for only £2,500. It won Best British Film at The London Film Awards. Now imagine what we can achieve on this project with a bigger budget. "We need to raise our target budget of £7,000. This we hope will be achieved through our massive Indiegogo campaign."

The film will start full production in August with a release date planned for 2016.

New vice principal sought at college

By Lisa O'Brien

A new vice principal on a salary of up to £57,000 a year is being sought at a college in Walsall as it breaks free from council control.

The post is being advertised by Walsall Adult and Community College which will be run independently from the summer in a bid to secure its long-term future.

The college, which is known as WACC and caters for around 4,500 students a year, was rated as outstanding by Ofsted during its latest inspection.

The advert for the position on Walsall Council's online job shop states it pays between £51,165 and £57,573 a year.

Bosses at the college said that due to a recent promotion there was now a vacancy for a vice principal for curriculum.

The advert states: "We are a forward thinking and community orientated college supported by a committed board of directors and we are looking to recruit a vice principal."

"This is your opportunity to be involved and play a key part in the exciting future of Walsall Adult & Community College."

"We have just reached our 5th birthday and already we are an outstanding college as graded in December 2012 by Ofsted, one of the first in the country."

In August the college will detach itself from the council becoming a legal entity in its own right.

The move to break free from Walsall Council will enable the college to apply for further pots of funding amid government cuts and will save costs for the council.

The college has two sites - in Hawbush Road, Leamore, and Whitehall Centre, Caldmore - and offers courses such as GCSEs, NVQs and apprenticeships.

The college has a turnover of more than £4.6 million and provides more than 8,000 learning opportunities to around 4,500 students.

WACC spokesman Kevin Williams said: "The new vice principal will work in a senior leadership team supporting the principal and directors in creating a shared vision and

Yoda the cat put down after shooting



The upset Edgerton family from Walsall Wood, Dawn Edgerton with her sons Finnley, Matthew and Sam

A FAMILY has been left devastated after yobs shot their pet kitten, leaving it so badly injured it had to be put down. Twelve-month-old Yoda was the fifth cat to be targeted in the Walsall Wood and Aldridge areas in recent weeks and the second to be killed. Owner Dawn Edgerton, aged 44 from Ivy Grove, was called by staff at Vets4Pets in Sheffield who said Yoda had been taken in with a pellet in her spine.

She said: "We have three children who are all completely and utterly devastated. Yoda was chipped and we got a call from the vets saying she had suffered a severe accident and that she was in pain and distress. They told us it was an air pellet in her spine and she would need to be put down. It was horrible for the children and us all. It is one thing to lose a cat but to lose it like that."



Yoda seen in his basket

The family went to see Yoda before she was put down at Vets4Pets in Sheffield. Mrs Edgerton added: "I can't believe that a person would do such a thing. I just don't understand why these air rifles are legal."

Yoda is the fifth cat to be shot

since April. One was taken into Vets4Pets from Oak Road suffering a broken leg which required an operation to fix.

Another, from Greenwood Road in Aldridge sustained a fractured pelvis and a had bullet lodged in its knee.

A third cat was brought in by an RSPCA officer needing an operation to fix a broken leg while the fourth cat, from the Occupation Road area, had to be put down after suffering severe trauma.

Last year there were 48 calls regarding air gun attacks on animals in the West Midlands but there have already been 30 between January 1 and June 11 this year. RSPCA spokeswoman Sara Howlett said: "This sounds like a very distressing case and we would urge anyone with information to contact our Cruelty and Advice Line on 0300 123 4999."

MP Morton praises Sir Richard in first speech

A NEWLY-ELECTED Walsall MP has pledged to support businesses in her maiden speech in the House of Commons. Wendy Morton, representing Aldridge-Brownhills paid tribute to her constituency as she addressed fellow MPs for the first time.

Mrs Morton also praised her long-serving predecessor, Sir Richard Shepherd who stood down.

She said: "Never one to shy away from a controversial debate, Sir Richard may be remembered by some Members in this House as a Maas-tricht rebel back in the 1990s. In holding true to his views on the European Union, he remained fearless."

She praised Aldridge Brownhills as 'a wonderful and very special constituency', adding: "As a believer in the power of communities, I know that as we seek to celebrate the past, we must also look to secure the future."

"In the same way, in Aldridge-Brownhills echoes of the industrial spirit and heritage that built modern-day Britain survive alongside many new industries, including established businesses such as Whitehouse Cox and Castings, and of course we should not forget the many newer businesses that together form the backbone of our local economy."

"I am committed to supporting enterprise, entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs. I want to see education, skills and business drive our economy."

Cannabis stash found in garden

AROUND 30 cannabis plants were discovered in a back garden in Walsall. Police found the drugs hidden behind a wall in an outbuilding in Bassett Street, Alumwell, after being called to the address on an unrelated matter.

The discovery was made at around 11.30am last Monday. No-one was at the property and no arrests were made. The West Midlands Cannabis Disposal Team, which is part of West Midlands Police, tweeted: "Decent attempt at hiding all of this but we still found it down at the bottom of a Bassett Street, Walsall garden."

"Officers discovered the grown in an outhouse at 11.30am whilst at the address on a separate matter. Nobody at the address except 30 large cannabis plants which we have."

Shop is shut after droppings found

A GROCERY store in Walsall has been forced to close after mice droppings were discovered in the premises. Council environmental health officers were called to inspect Bangla Stores in Milton Street, Palfrey, after a complaint from the public.

A hygiene emergency prohibition notice was served last week and enforced at the magistrates court.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Foreign cash store opens up

A NEW foreign exchange provider has opened in Walsall, creating new jobs. Eurochange has launched a new branch in the Saddlers Shopping Centre, bringing five posts.

The branch near to the entrance from Park Street comes as there are other sites in Birmingham, Merry Hill and Halesowen.

Managing director Giles Custerson said: "We are a growing company and the opening of new branches highlights the public's desire for a quick, reliable and efficient travel money service."

MP's praise for brigade efforts

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williams has praised the achievements of a Boys Brigade branch after attending a recent awards evening.

The MP was on hand to present awards to the Cheslyn Hay Boys Brigade along with Councillor Bernard Williams, vice chairman of South Staffordshire Council.

The Boys' Brigade, which has been active in Cheslyn Hay for more than 40 years, works with thousands of young people, providing a programme of activities for children and young people aged five to 18.

Church boost green light due

THE expansion of a church in Walsall is poised to go-ahead by planners tonight, Thursday, despite concerns it will cause more parking problems.

The existing two-storey presbytery will be demolished at St Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Streety and replaced with space for meeting rooms, an office and tea bar.

There have been five objections to the application in Bridle Lane with concerns including the impact of increased on-street parking.

Talks due on Arriva services facing cuts

URGENT talks are being demanded over bus services amid cuts to routes. It emerged that the Arriva 68 bus between Cannock to Wolverhampton, via New Invention, is having its evening services axed.

Willenhall Liberal Democrats will now be seeking talks with Centro and bus operators. Councillor Ian Shires said: "We succeeded in getting Walsall Council to invest in improved parking back in 2012. We need to make sure that this progress is maintained."

Car hits barrier

A DRIVER escaped injury when a car struck a barrier on the Black Country Route in Walsall. The silver-coloured vehicle was badly damaged in the crash that happened at about 2am on Saturday. Crews from Walsall Fire Station's blue watch attended the incident. No-one was hurt.

42 months in jail for man with drugs bag

A DRUG dealer who asked to 'have a private word' with a police officer and then handed over 19 packets of crack and heroin has been jailed for 42 months.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Anil Ali, 20, was arrested in Walsall town centre on April 22 after police had received reports that a man was carrying a firearm.

No weapon was found in his possession, but during the journey to Bloxwich police station Ali gave an officer a small amount of cannabis.

Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting, said: "Once they arrived at the police station he asked to have a private word with the officer. "He immediately handed the officer a bag containing 16 small blocks of what he said was crack cocaine."

The court heard that a short time later Ali produced another three packets containing drugs from the front pocket of his jeans. Police also seized £1,200 in cash from Ali. The packets were sent for analysis which revealed they contained 6.62g of heroin and 6.25g of crack, with a combined street value of £1,000.

Mr Edwards said that in police interview Ali admitted possessing the drugs but said he planned to supply them to friends for no personal gain.

Mr Rupert Jones, defending, said his client had made 'a foolish decision' to involve himself in the supply of drugs. Ali, of Kent Street, Walsall, admitted two counts of possession of class A drugs with intent to supply.

He was jailed for 42 months.

Go-ahead due for pub scheme

THE transformation of a derelict pub site to create new homes is poised to get the go-ahead by councillors.

The scheme for a combination of 30 houses and flats at the old Cavalcade site in Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, has been recommended for approval at a meeting of Walsall Council planning committee.

It has been vacant for more than five years and previous plans to build supported living homes prompted anger from the community attracting a 30-name petition amid concerns over noise and disturbance. The plans never went ahead and the alternative development has been put forward.

There have been seven objections to the latest application with concerns including extra congestion.

Charity night at village hall

A CHARITY shopping night is being held at Old Wyrley Hall in Great Wyrley on Monday, June 22 from 7pm. For more details or to have a stall at the event, organised by Glitzy Bits Boutique, call Ryan on 07557 336668.

Canal towpaths set for spruce-up

CANAL towpaths across the Black Country will be spruced up as part of a £4.2 million package of improvements to encourage cycling and walking. Links between canals and vital services will be created and existing cycle routes refurbished under the scheme, which was due to get under way last week.

The 'Managing Short Trips' project is being carried out by public transport co-ordinator Centro in partnership with the Canal and River Trust and councils in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Money for the scheme has been provided through the local growth fund which supports projects that benefit the local economy.

Areas of canal towpaths forming part of national cycle route 81 running from Aberystwyth to Wol-

verhampton will be improved. And new links will be created between towpaths and sites including Walsall Train Station and Darlaston town centre.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, chair of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, said: "We have already seen great improvements to walking and cycling facilities in our area through the Smart Network, Smarter Choices project and this scheme will really allow us to build on that. This funding will help us breathe new life into some of the canal towpaths, some of which date back to the 18th century."

A section of national cycle network 54 at Pensnett Trading Estate in Kingswinford will be refurbished as part of the project, as will part of route five, which

runs from Reading to Holyhead, at Smethwick. A canal towpath route from Walsall town centre to Midland Road will be established and new links to Moseley Park in Wolverhampton will be created.

The Canal and River Trust has welcomed the start of work which will see a total of more than 16 miles of canal towpath improved.

Ian Lane, regional waterways manager, said: "The canals in the Black Country provide a ready-made network of green traffic free routes in and around towns and cities. These projects will improve the towpath for everyone, making it more accessible for cyclists, walkers, joggers, anglers and boaters.

"The canals in the Black Country really help to connect local communities."

Fire-hit site revamp in line for approval

THE transformation of a fire-ravaged Walsall town centre site to create shops and flats is poised for a green light, despite objections.

The building neighbouring the Hole in the Wall curtain and fabrics shop in High Street was largely destroyed or had to be demolished after the blaze in 2004.

Plans for a combination of commercial space and nine apartments have been submitted to Walsall Council with its planning committee recommended to grant permission tonight, Thursday. Business room will be created at the ground level with nine apartments above, under the plans put forward.

Some of the facade of the old Hole in the Wall shop remains and objections have been raised through Historic England Advice and Walsall Civic Society over the scale of the scheme.

Another Hole in the Wall shop is open and based near the corner of Goodall Street.

Concerns have also been received from a member of the public objecting to homes backing onto the rear of the Lyndon House hotel amid concerns about noise.

Opportunity

However, the development of the site on a key gateway at the top of the town is receiving backing from council officers. It will also complement the redevelopment of St Matthew's Quarter, where a £12m shopping centre is planned.

A report from head of planning David Elsworth to the committee says: "This application presents a clear opportunity to develop an important gateway to St Matthews Quarter of the town. The High Street part of the site was originally occupied by two listed buildings, that were extensively fire damaged in 2004 and subsequently largely destroyed due to the extent of the damage."

"Whilst Historic England accepts the principle of the loss of the structure to the rear of the facade of 12 High Street, in order to bring forward the viable re-use and restoration of the entire site, they object to the principle of a contemporary building and consider the proposed design solution to be inappropriate."

At the height of the blaze more than a decade ago, more than 100 firefighters had been at the scene and the town centre was brought to a standstill. The on-going regeneration of Walsall town centre includes B&M and Poundland having signed up for St Matthew's Quarter.



Dave Williams and John Edwards from the Black Country Living Museum at The Willenhall Carnival, Willenhall Memorial Park, Pinson Road, Willenhall



Lacey Brookes picks a bag of popcorn



Graham Boylan and Peter the Rabbit

Carnival fun goes on during showers

RAIN did its best to stop play, but hundreds still turned out with their brollies and raincoats for Willenhall Carnival.

Plans for the event had to be ripped up due to the wet weather this weekend, but many of the attractions were able to go ahead to the delight of around 500 visitors.

Organiser Sharon Green said: "We were quite concerned about our main act - an aerial display team and what they were going to be able to do. So we decided to put them on standby as soon as there was a clearing in the weather we threw them on."

"Fortunately they managed to do two acts which were enjoyed by those watching. I would like to say a big thank you to those who did brave it and came and supported the carnival."

The annual extravaganza, which dates back to the 1920s, was opened at Willenhall Memorial Park on Saturday by the Mayor of Walsall, Angela Underhill. Highlights included the usual crowning of the carnival royalty and a playful dog competition with categories such as the dog judges would most like to take home and the dog with the waggiest tail.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

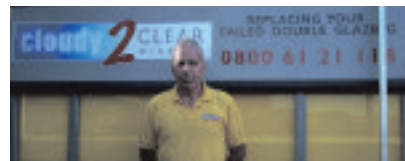
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Protesting will never make a difference

ON my return from holiday this weekend, a border control official at Birmingham Airport scrutinised my passport very carefully, observing that there was still a sticker from a trip to Dubrovnik the previous month. "You need to take that off, it's obsolete," he said abruptly. It's greatly comforting that our border staff are so meticulous. It probably explains why we never have any problems with illegal immigration.

ISN'T it interesting that whenever there is talk of austerity, the police station closures and library cuts are never far away. Yet somehow, the traffic-calming industry always seems to escape the brunt of the brutality. When was the last time you ever heard a local authority announce in sombre tones that there will be no red paint, speed bumps or yellow lines this year because the budget has been cut?

Recently, near where I live, the local authority had the truly bonzer idea of installing a central reservation opposite the bus stop, presumably with the idea that it will slow speeding drivers down.

However, I suspect that 95 per cent of the time the boy racers will still drive very fast, only now they will drive very fast through the bus stop. It is what boy racers do. I doubt if the average baseball-cap wearer stops and thinks "the council has changed the road markings, I had better drive like an undertaker."

That said, I am convinced that for the remaining five per cent of the time we will see a marked reduction in road speeds. Particularly when Mr Max Power drives splat bang into the side of the bus.

When they said they wanted an integrated transport policy, I didn't realise they meant quite so closely integrated.

AFTER months of aggravation at the hands of various disgruntled protesters who have decided to take it upon themselves to be offended on behalf of the people of the Black Country, it was good to hear that the latest anti-mosque demo was a bit of a damp squib.

After all the threats of thousands of angry football fans coming to vent their spleen, fewer than 200 actually turned out. But, really, when was the last time anything in Britain was ever changed by folk wandering through a town centre with for sale boards in their hand?

When I was at university, there seemed to be a demo every other week, usually about cuts to student grants or pit closures. And what a difference that made.

What I do remember was how the student magazine would proudly proclaim how many coaches it filled, but strangely they always managed to lose quite a few by the time of the protest itself. Still, I suppose that's the risk you take if you offer free transport to London for the start of the Christmas sales.



Smethwick Toll House in High Street and its coach house



Langley Maltings in Oldbury, dating 1870, steeped in history



Heron Court in Rugeley, with its Tudor Gothic architecture

Taking stock of our crumbling heritage

People may be surprised to find many landmark buildings are on the at risk register.

ADAM BURLING reports

THEY have become familiar parts of the landscape to thousands of people who pass them every day.

But many may not realise that these historic buildings are among the country's most at risk sites.

Heritage campaigners have drawn up a list of buildings that they believe could end up knocked down or falling into disrepair if action is not taken.

And while some are instantly recognisable, others are less obvious. But they all form part of the Black Country and Staffordshire's rich heritage. The SAVE group, which is marking its 40th anniversary this year, is about to release its latest catalogue of at risk buildings. And English Heritage recently compiled a list of sites that are vulnerable to making way for developments.

Turnpike

Smethwick Toll House has been a fixture on the High Street since 1820 but it unlikely that the majority of shoppers or commuters pay it much attention each day. But it is among five sites in the West Midlands chosen by SAVE in its latest investigations.

The toll house and associated coach house is Grade II-listed and served the Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton turnpike which was formed in 1760. The toll house and former coach house were most recently let as an art gallery, but have now been vacant for a number of years.

Meanwhile, Langley Maltings is steeped in the history of the Black Country's brewing industry. Originally dating from 1870, but substantially rebuilt in 1898, the Maltings are a well-known landmark in this part of Sandwell.

The site was built for the nearby Showell's Crosswell Brewery, with the 1898 buildings designed by Arthur Kinder & Son, notable brewery architects. Although the brewery changed hands several times, remarkably the maltings were still in use as late as 2006 and it



Wolverhampton's Church of St Leonard has leaking gutters causing damage to stonework

was one of the last to use the traditional floor malting process.

An arson attack in 2009 caused considerable damage to the buildings, but English Heritage concluded that 'despite some unstable masonry, repairing the building would be relatively straightforward'.

An application for demolition was submitted by the owner in 2012, but the council rejected the plans after an outcry from residents. Businessmen Lehmer Singh and Harbhajan Singh Dhadday, who run D&S Enterprises, bought the property for £1 million in 2007.

Mr Dhadday said they were still hoping to submit a planning application to build housing. In Staffordshire, Heron Court has been singled out as an example of Tudor Gothic architecture. The building, in Heron Street, Rugeley, was constructed in 1851 at the time that Rugeley was expanding from a market town to a coal mining centre.

It was used as a convent and more recently as the home of a billiards club.

The site is now up for sale and, while it is in relatively good condition, there are fears it will be difficult to find a new use for it that will keep its historic features.

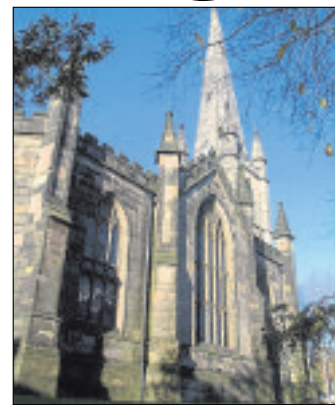
Meanwhile English Heritage has named two well-known Dudley churches on its list of landmarks under threat. St Thomas and St Luke's Church in High Street, Dudley, known as Top Church, is a shock new addition to this year's Heritage at Risk register. St John's Church in Dudley is now also on the list.

A total of 195 sites across the Black Country, Staffordshire and North Worcestershire have now been identified as being at risk in the latest survey. Five new buildings in the area, all of them churches, have been added.

However, nine buildings have been removed after finding a more secure future. St Thomas and St Luke's Church is considered to be Dudley's premier church and is used for civic functions. The Grade II listed building, built between 1815 and 1818, is said to be in 'poor' condition.

Ten years ago £528,000 was spent restoring its spire. Meanwhile, St John's Church in St John Street closed in 2002 for safety reasons after structural problems were discovered.

Worcester Diocese, which owns the building, initially said it may be declared redundant and demolished. However, the St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to



Restoration - Top Church, Dudley High Street

save the building, and it was granted Grade II-listed status in 2009.

William Perry, better known as The Tipton Slasher, who was England's bare-knuckle boxing champion from 1850 to 1857, and Marion Richardson, a well-known author of children's handwriting books, are among those buried in the churchyard. Other entries on the register include in Wolverhampton, St Luke's Church in Upper Villiers Street, said to be at severe risk as its condition is deteriorating rapidly, English Heritage says. It is described as in 'very bad' condition and as being 'of immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric'.

Built by GT Robinson of Leamington in 1860, the church's huge, decorated spire is a local landmark in the Blakenhall area. The problem of dry rot was addressed some years ago, but many other issues remain.

The city's Church of St Leonard, in Church Street, has leaking gutters that are damaging the stonework and causing water damage inside. It still has a number of original features from when it was built in 1825, but English Heritage says they could be lost if repairs are not carried out.

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Bat to basics after FIFA failings

WITH all the doom and gloom and dreary news of FIFA corruption allegations and the stupidity of reorganising the football season to play a World Cup in Qatar in November to avoid temperatures of 35 to 40C the beautiful game is best put to bed for the summer.

This summer is an 'Ashes' summer, one of the best sporting rivalries there is. Let's give cricket, a real summer sport, a chance to shine. Congratulations to everyone involved in organising the Walsall Festival of Cricket recently. Walsall has some very pas-

sionate cricket supporters who are keen to build on the interest in cricket locally.

Crickets offers young people the chance to get out and be active, engage their skills and learn new skills and strategies in a safe friendly sport. If there are any cricket supporters or young people who would like to join in with organising a Darlaston cricket festival please get in touch with Cllr Doug James on 07983 456213. Let's get everyone involved in a real summer sport. Howzat!

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

Youngsters en route to democracy

OUR political system needs to get real and recognise the abilities of 16/17 year olds in our country, to properly include young people in our communities and show trust to young people.

There are over 1.5 million 16/17 year olds in the UK denied votes. I want young people to be engaged, empowered and inspired.

The transition to further education, apprenticeships, jobs, paying tax, joining the Armed Forces, being married, having children are just a few of the responsibilities that can be laid on young people's shoulders.

Young people must have a say at the ballot box. Young voters would make 'the powers that be' more accountable.

The campaign for the vote for 16/17 year olds is as significant as the historic and important campaign for the suffragette campaign for equal voting rights for women. Our country needs to modernise its democratic systems. We need renewal and an inclusive democracy.

Cllr Doug James
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Tory chief's ideas are beyond a joke

'WHAT joy!' Walsall town centre businesses must be rubbing their hands with glee. In fact the Walsall comic book shop where Councillor Bird seems to get his ideas from must be doing a roaring trade now.

His latest gem is to recommend a shortening of working hours as an alternative to redundancy. Brilliant.

I would imagine this idea will have massive appeal to the already depleted staff who are left after the previous raft of redundancies, that is the ones who haven't already gone off with stress due to an ever-increasing workload and not enough bodies to cope.

I would imagine the remaining staff will be delighted to once more be the

sacrificial lambs. Does this Tory council not realise or care that these ill-conceived, knee-jerk ideas not only impact upon the people who are expected to give more and earn less they create an atmosphere of dejection that percolates down into the services we all use and pay for?

Is this the only strategy they can come up with, attacking the usual victims creating despondency and apathy in order to do the government's dirty work? Why don't they start to earn the expense increases they gave themselves and examine other areas where the rate payers' money is wasted.

D BAKER
Walsall

Put a tax on fast food

OBESITY related deaths now account for one in five, or 20 per cent of recorded deaths in this country, usually heart failure. Smoking related deaths are now the second biggest cause.

This comes as no surprise, considering the vast amount of fast food outlets. Years ago it was just fish and chips, usually once a week, now it is every meal for some people.

So now obesity is costing the NHS more than smokers. The only difference being that smokers contribute approximately 60 per cent of their purchase in tax to the treasury, and therefore the NHS.

This raises the question - should fast food be taxed in the same way as tobacco? In my opinion it should. There is nothing wrong with the occasional fast food meal, but not every day.

A PARKER
Willenhall

Memories of childhood

HAVING read about Keith Parton's book 'Living in God's Country - The Bilston Years' in the Express & Star a couple of months ago, I contacted Keith and obtained a copy. It took me back to when I was just a kid and in particular to where I grew up in Stowlaun.

Memories of the golf links, the cottage pool, Naylor's field, Bilston wood and the potted meat factory are just a few of the places mentioned where I used to play with my mates. A wonderful nostalgic read.

D HENN
Willenhall

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Talks over clean-up at eyesore pub sites

TALKS are to take place with the owners of two eyesore pub sites in Walsall in a bid to get them cleaned up and regenerated.

The Leathern Bottle and Eagle, both in Cresswell Crescent, Mossley, have fallen into disrepair over the years and calls have been made to tidy them up.

There have been plans put forward to use the sites for either homes or retail, but in the meantime the buildings have remained in a derelict state. Walsall North MP David Winnick has been leading calls for action and for Section 215 notices to be introduced to force improvement work.

Untidy

He said: "It is simply not acceptable that the situation remains as it is."

Walsall Council says it is opening discussions over their long-term use with owners.

David Elsworth, head of planning and building control, said: "Although both the Leathern Bottle and Eagle sites are considered to be untidy, they are not sufficiently dilapidated to war-

By Craig Hughes

rant the issuing of a formal Section 215 Notice to secure the tidying or repair of the site and buildings.

"It was hoped that having granted the owners of the Leathern Bottle planning permission we would have seen a new pub, retail units and nine flats being built on the site. This permission expires on June 22, 2015.

"The planning permission for residential development at the Eagle site has now expired. Officers are in contact with the owners as we are open to discussions on the future of both sites."

Drugs and a dangerous dog were found at the Leathern Bottle in 2009. It closed several years ago. The Eagle has been empty

Police in search for missing Ashley, 19



Ashley Harris, aged 19, who has gone missing

POLICE have launched a search for a missing Walsall man who has not been seen for more than two weeks.

Ashley Harris, aged 19, left his home, in Stanley Street, Bloxwich, on June 1 and has not been seen since. He was reported missing on Sunday June 7.

He is described as white, 6ft 2ins tall and slim. He has blue eyes, short fair hair and speaks with a local accent.

He has tattoo marked 'made in England 4/4/1996' on his neck and another marked 'nan' on this right forearm.

Walsall Police said officers have been speaking to his family and friends and visiting places frequented by Mr Harris.

Ashley or anyone who sees him should call police immediately on 101.

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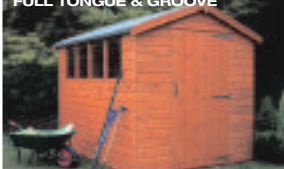
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IT'S a football field of two halves on the border of two Black Country boroughs.

Grass is being cut on one half of the field by Sandwell Council – but it is being left to grow on the other side by Walsall Council.

People have been left scratching their heads as both authorities fail to agree on who mows the field on the edge of the two boroughs. The situation – described as 'council bureaucracy gone mad' – is driving residents round the bend. They have now called for immediate action over the issue.

Sandwell Council and Walsall Council are discussing who is responsible for mowing the field off Walstead Road and Laurel Road, near the Yew Tree estate. Residents say the problem has persisted for a while as one half of the field grows, the other is cut, then vice versa.

Failed

There is a visible line along the border with grass more than an inch or two longer on the opposite side.

Campaigner David Fisher says it is 'mind-boggling' how the councils have failed to resolve the issue.

"You could say the grass isn't greener on the other side," said Mr Fisher from Longleat, in Great Barr.

"I just think that it is mind-boggling that neither council will just sort this out. It is a shame that the playing fields don't look tidy because it is used by groups of youngsters for their football practice. One side will be cut then a few months later the other half will be cut but by that point the other side has got too long. It is a pity but it is bureaucracy gone mad."

The 38-year-old UKIP campaigner said: "There is all this talk of having a new combined authority but I think it's a joke. If they can't even agree on a matter that is as simple as cutting



Local resident David Fisher is seen on the field cut by two separate councils

some grass then how are they going sort out the combined authority?"

Football training sessions are occasionally held on the grassed land which is open space for people to go and use.

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, agreed that the issue will be tackled and is opening talks with Walsall Council.

"This is council bureaucracy gone mad – it is stupid when two councils cannot talk together to work out a way of ensuring that this work is done

properly to the satisfaction of local residents," he said. "We are satisfied that our area is kept in a good condition and I will be talking to the Walsall Council leader to see what we can do to make sure that this work is done as a combined effort in the future."

Walsall councillor Anthony Harris, who is in charge of the borough's parks, added that officials would be investigating further.

"It's a ridiculous situation and we're going to address it, common sense dictates that action needs to be taken."

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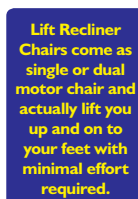


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Talks due on eyesore derelict pubs



The Leathern Bottle, on Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich, one of the dilapidated sites which will be under discussion

TALKS are to take place with the owners of eyesore sites in Walsall in a bid to get them cleaned up and regenerated. The Leathern Bottle and Eagle pubs sites in Bloxwich have fallen into disrepair over the years and calls have been made to tidy them up.

There have been plans put forward to use the sites in Cresswell Crescent, Mossley, for either homes or retail, but in the meantime the buildings have remained in a derelict state.

Walsall North MP David Winnick

has been leading calls for action to be taken and for Section 215 notices to be introduced to force improvement work.

Walsall Council chiefs have said they are opening discussions over their long-term use with owners.

David Elsworth, head of planning and building control, said: "Although both the Leathern Bottle and Eagle sites are considered to be untidy, they are not sufficiently dilapidated to warrant the issuing of a formal Section

215 Notice to secure the tidying or repair of the site and buildings. However officers will be monitoring the situation."

Mr Winnick said: "They have both been closed for some considerable time, and have continued to deteriorate. It is simply not acceptable that the situation remains as it is; as I have mentioned previously, if the sites were in some of the most prosperous areas of the borough, action would probably have been taken earlier."

Care home to alleviate pressure on Manor Hospital

A NEW 72-bedroom nursing home will be built on a derelict site in Willenhall after the plans, creating 50 jobs, were backed by the council.

The three-storey building to be run by MACC Care Ltd will be constructed on the grounds of the former Meadow House in Stroud Avenue.

Members of Walsall's planning committee approved the plans, with council chiefs saying the home will help to ease pressure on Manor Hospital.

The buildings of the former council-run care home which closed a number of years ago and been a target of vandals will be demolished to pave the way for the modern centre. The site was previously subject to controversial proposals for a mental health facility but they were withdrawn after attracting more than 1,000 objections from residents.

The new plans by MACC Care Ltd includes six properties and there will be 23 parking spaces.

There were seven objections to the scheme with concerns including it being out of keeping with the residential area, too high and inadequate parking available.

But vice-chairman of the planning committee Mike Bird said: "I am encouraged by the fact people are looking to invest in the town. "A 72-bedded care home is much needed, if you know the situation at the Manor and other hospitals. This is a good, brand new quality home. Some of our people are having to go out the borough in Wolverhampton, Dudley, areas like that."

Concerns were raised about adequate parking spaces but councillors agreed to push ahead with the scheme. Councillor Anthony Harris added: "Homes in this category, and under this situation, are more important than additional car parking capacity."

Fun time for event at church

LIVE music and dance performances are in the offing when a Walsall church throws open its doors for its community day on Saturday.

Acts from The Blue Coat Foundation Schools will entertain inside St Matthew's church and outdoors with their steel band, choir and Bollywood dancers. There will also be an appearance by the Signs for Worship signing team, pupils from Blue Coat Academy, Queen Mary's Grammar School Skiffle Band, and Walsall Studio School, Good Traditions Irish band.

The aim of the event, at St Matthew's Close, is to draw residents together from different backgrounds and faiths to celebrate the area's diversity.

Other attractions include crafts, stalls and workshops, a barbecue, along with Messy Church, face painting, visit the animal corner, games, a bouncy castle and climbing tower.

The free event will kick off at 11am until 3.30pm.

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These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Siblings jailed over attacks on bus users

A BROTHER and sister who lashed out at bus passengers during a 45-minute rampage in the Black Country are behind bars.

Drunken Whitney Maughan assaulted two passengers, including a 16-year-old boy, before attacking two more people at Dudley bus station.

It culminated with a vicious beating, in tandem with her brother James, on a 30-year-old man as he waited for his regular service home after work.

The victim described Whitney, from Barnet Road, Portobello, as being like a 'raging bull' as the pair rained punches on him.

Whitney began swinging punches at the commuter after being told he couldn't provide her with a cigarette.

Moments later 22-year-old James weighed in with a flurry of blows before kicking the man in the head and rendering him unconscious against a row of metal seating.



Whitney Maughan – 31-month term



Brother James – two-year stretch

and her brother turned their attention to the 30-year-old man in Stand G of the terminus. Despite the severity of the attack neither the man, nor any of the other victims, reported the assaults to police.

CCTV was circulated among staff from the Safer Travel Partnership. This led to Whitney being identified by a PCSO who had previously challenged the 21-year-old over her behaviour.

West Midlands Police issued an appeal to trace her and on April 13 she handed herself in to Wolverhampton police, while James was interviewed by officers in prison in Manchester where he'd been remanded on other matters.

Whitney admitted four counts of assault and theft and was jailed for 31 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court, while James, previously of An-

gela Place, Bilston, was handed a two-year jail term for assault. Pc David Ward said: "These were shocking attacks on innocent members of the public. This type of behaviour is despicable and will not be tolerated. They completely lost control – lashing out at people on a whim seemingly just for kicks."

"I hope our action in tracking down the victims and offenders, plus the subsequent jail sentences handed down, reassure transport users that we are committed to tackling crime and bad behaviour on buses."

Councillor Kath Hartley, chairman of Centro's Putting Passengers First Committee, said: "Incidents of this nature are, thankfully, rare on public transport but when they do occur we will take decisive action."

Rummaged

And as he was out cold, Whitney even rummaged through his pockets and stole his mobile phone and £40 cash. A court heard the siblings 'completely lost control – lashing out at people on a whim seemingly just for kicks'. And police have branded the attacks as 'despicable' as they revealed how CCTV images were used to track them down.

The pair had been seen on the 246 Stourbridge bus at around 6pm on March 5 when Whitney lashed out at the teenager before laying into a 30-year-old woman who confronted them. Shortly after leaving the bus in Dudley, she yanked a 17-year-old girl's hair, scratching her neck, before she

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Comics make a stand for charity



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Russell Howard joined the line up

"I DO a few charity gigs to balance things out because I steal a lot from charity too."

Mouth of the South, Rob Beckett set the cheeky tone during a star-studded fundraiser in Wolverhampton to collect cash for Central Youth Theatre.

Beckett was the surprise performer for the Hilarity Charity Gala, which aimed to raise thousands for CYT after it lost its council funding under the sweeping budget cuts. It is hoped the final total will amount to £20,000.

"What the group provides is

A comedy night helped Wolverhampton's Central Youth Theatre. KATY MEANEY went along

great," the funnyman said. "There wasn't anything like that when I was growing up."

The fundraising gala at the Grand Theatre also included Russell Howard and Greg Davies, alongside the best in up-and-coming comedy talent, who all waived their usual fees. Sadly, Canadian stand-up Katherine Ryan had to pull out at the last minute but that didn't stop the rest of the team providing a top night.

Howard, a regular on panel shows like Mock The Week and a star of his own Good News show, said he was happy to support the cause and perform at the Grand for the first time.

"The crowd were great, especially for a Monday night," he said.

"I haven't done a gig for two months but it's so cool to travel somewhere and know people are happy to see you. Benefit gigs are amazing, people want to laugh and show their support for something they believe in and that combination is incredible."

Thrilled

"I am going to do some gigs in America but I hope to have a UK tour next year and I will definitely be back in Wolverhampton."

Greg Davies, who grew up in Shropshire and is the star of The Inbetweeners and Man Down, took to the stand-up stage for the first time in two years. He said: "I've played here on tour twice and I'm thrilled to be here again."

"From what I've been told the Central Youth Theatre are doing and have done wonderful work over many years."

"I wasn't part of it even though I'm from the Midlands but Tom Parry from Pappys asked me to do the gig and I know he was involved with the Central Youth Theatre and it gave him a good start."

"From everything he has told me they are doing some great work so



Surprise performer at the fundraising gig – Rob Beckett

I'm delighted to be here tonight supporting it.

"It's a great bill so it's great to see so many big names supporting it too. I haven't done a gig for a long time so I'll be knocking out some of my own material and seeing where the wind takes me."

Former CYT member Tom pulled in favours from showbiz to organise the charity gig. He said: "CYT means everything to me and I wanted to give something back."

"All our training came from the group, we owe it everything. The

show means a lot tonight because we are helping CYT and we are performing with our friends."

"They know what the group means to us and they are happy to help sell out the show."

Director of CYT, Jane Ward, set the company for eight to 25 year olds up 32 years ago.

She said: "It is quite a line-up for only our second year. It is really important to us now that we are rooted in the heart of Wolverhampton and to build the future and secure the next 30 years of CYT."



Greg Davies – all 6ft 8in of him – makes a big entrance as he arrives

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Astronaut visit is out of this world



With astronaut Dr Thomas are, from left, poster winners Suzanna Warner, Abigail Taylor and Anya Simon

STUDENTS at a Walsall school were beamed to a voyage of discovery when an astronaut paid a visit to talk about life on a space shuttle flight.

Dr Don Thomas, an astronaut who completed nearly 700 orbits of the Earth on four space shuttle missions, talked to Year 7 pupils at Aldridge School, in Tynnings Lane.

It was the first time the NASA veteran of four shuttle flights has addressed UK pupils with his life story.

He told the 11 and 12-year-olds about life in space with zero gravity and how astronauts coped with everyday tasks such as drinking liquid in

sachets and washing their hair. He said: "It is a myth that you can see the Great Wall of China from space - because it blends into the land it isn't visible to the human eye when you orbit the Earth."

"However it is amazing what else you can see when you look out of the shuttle's window onto our planet."

"I have looked into the eye of a 125mph hurricane, watched a comet set, seen the top of Mount Everest lots of times and seen how ultra thin the Earth's atmosphere is," he added.

He says he was impressed by the youngsters' enthusiasm, interest and

questions about his space missions, which he completed between 1994 and 1997.

The author of the book Orbit of Discovery also spoke of about his STS-70 mission aboard space shuttle Discovery and how nesting woodpeckers delayed the 1995 programme when they damaged the external tank of the STS-70 by pecking 71 holes in its insulation foam.

Head David Mountney said: "It was a genuine honour to welcome a NASA astronaut."

"We were also privileged in being the first UK school that he visited."

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Icing on the cake for Arriva's 100th



Left, Beth Jones and right Dan Flanagan of Arriva, with care home resident Milicent Denisthorne, 96 and the cake

A BUS service which is used by people travelling into Walsall is celebrating 100 years of operation.

The number 1 service between Cannock, Great Wyrley, Bloxwich and Walsall is now operated by Arriva Midlands, but was originally set up by Walsall Corporation, which began motorbuses in May 1915.

The first vehicles used were Tilling Stevens petrol electrics. This type of bus was favoured by many organisations, as more traditional types were being commandeered into service for World War I by the government.

Over the years the service was ex-

tended to Rugeley along the A460 and in recent times service 1 has operated between Huntington, Dog in tree Estate, Cannock, Great Wyrley, Bloxwich and Walsall.

Service 1 runs up to every 20 minutes during the day from Monday to Saturday.

To celebrate the centenary Arriva Midlands donated a celebratory centenary cake to a local nursing home in Great Wyrley which is situated along the route.

Dan Flanagan, Arriva's local manager said: "This is a great milestone for service 1 having provided a regular

bus service for 100 years' along the A34 initially between Bloxwich, Cannock and Hednesford then extended into Walsall.

"Service 1 is a very popular service providing buses up to every 20 minutes during the day Monday to Saturday."

"Arriva Midlands' great range of multi-journey saver tickets are ideal for the regular traveller and are inter-available between our local bus services - making bus travel a viable alternative to using the car."

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With a cheeky glint in her eye, Una says age is no barrier to getting failing dentures fixed.

It's never too late

At a sprightly 86, Una defies the years and travels some 800 miles to restore her smile

UNA Oakley is 86 years young and it shows. Spritely, articulate, eager to embrace life, she is the epitome of what being senior should be.

Nodding knowingly, and with a disarming cheeky laugh, she is one of a growing number of older people who are determined to defy the encroaching years.

The former Red Cross worker and legal secretary from Lower Gornal and her doctor husband, Douglas, retired to an apartment in Llandudno - one of the most scenic coastal spots in the UK - but trouble with her teeth unexpectedly brought her back to her Black Country roots.

After being prescribed new dentures at the Dental Clinic, North Street, Dudley, Una confidently declares: "I feel a different person now."

Contracting a mysterious gum infection in 1980 after a routine dental visit, Una found herself being treated by a number of consultants at Birmingham Dental Hospital.

Referred by her own dental surgeon, she recalls: "No-one could define the infection. I was treated by two hospital consultants and a dental professor, but all they could say was that it was not a gingivitis bacteria that I'd contracted."

"Obviously attempts were made to trace its source, but the dentist I had seen had disappeared without trace. No-one ever found him," she says.

For five years she continued to receive treatment at the hospital, but every endeavour to save her teeth failed. Various gum therapies and capping her teeth did nothing to halt the periodontal decline.

"I was given a plate, but the remainder of my own teeth were becoming loose and I pulled out the final remaining three myself."

Her last full set of dentures was dispensed more than 20 years ago. "They lasted well," she adds, "but about three years ago, people noticed I was holding my hand to my mouth and talking through my fingers. I didn't even realise."

"I hadn't consciously made that decision, but when I smiled you could not see any teeth - they were so worn down. I was effectively chewing just on the plate"

"It was my husband saying 'stop talking through your fingers' that made me do something about it," she says.

So impressed

Recommended by a friend to the Denture Clinic, Una and her husband made a 250-mile round trip to find help.

"I never realised I'd lost so much confidence," says Una. "My lack of confidence had slowly crept up on me and I didn't see it."

Una's initial visit to the clinic to see principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 was hugely encouraging. "As soon as I walked in, I instinctively felt there was someone that could do something for me."

"I had come hoping that I could have suction valve dentures, but my gums were not at all suitable."

"Steven was not pushy, explained fully the options I had and asked me to go away and think about it. I was so impressed at his relaxed manner. He just gave me the information and let me make up my own mind. I felt confident

and reassured and there was no pressure at all," she says.

Una's treatment has involved six visits to the clinic - a total of some 800 miles of driving - with her husband acting as chauffeur.

Was it worth it?

She replies with an emphatic "yes", smiles and adds: "They don't look false."

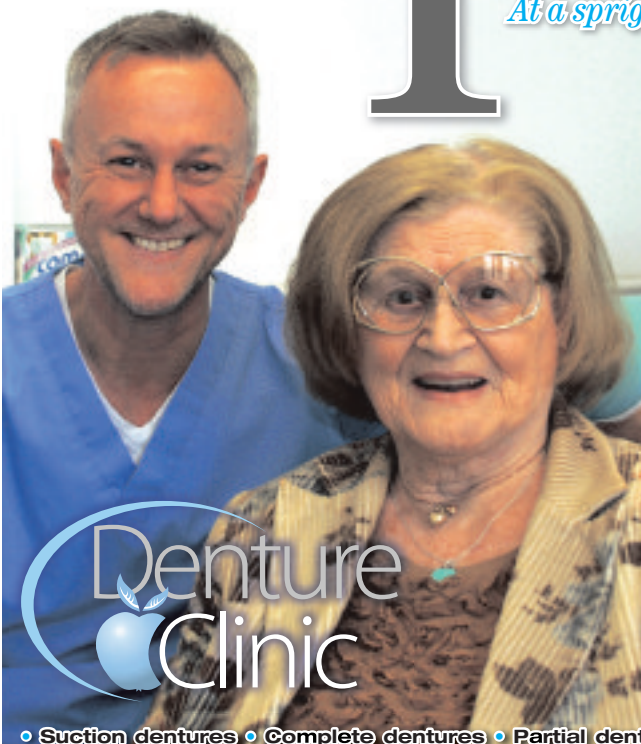
Steven explains that Una's case was a difficult one and involved taking "functional impressions," a procedure where a bespoke template is made and the patient has to perform a number of mouth movements onto dental putty.

"It's the ultimate working model," says Steven.

He adds: "Una's gums in her lower jaw had a negative profile - a inward curve, rather than the usual raised profile. The only way we could assure good function, stability and comfort was to achieve an absolute perfect fit. With this kind of problem there's no room for error."

"I'm very pleased with the happy clinical outcome, but this has been a team solution and the laboratory technicians here have worked miracles. Her decision to have this treatment underpins my personal belief that no-one is too old to get their teeth sorted and enhance their quality of life."

The Denture Clinic is part of North Street Dental, which offers private, family dentistry with resident dental surgeon Polly, a Doctor of Dental Medicine (GDC 188090), who has a special interest in paediatric and cosmetic dentistry, and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGD (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL) GDC 61576. Owain has been placing implants for more than 25 years.



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Teacher wins major contest

A DARLASTON teacher has been selected as a winner of a national competition.

Paul Waterhouse, a teacher and head of the Aspire programme at Grace Academy Darlaston, was nominated for the Teachers Build Futures award by a group of pupils at the school.

The competition was launched by construction toy company K'NEX to reward teachers who make learning fun.

Mr Waterhouse found out he had won the competition in an assembly at the school. He said: "The students who nominated me for this competition are a credit to the school and I am very proud of them all."

"It's a real privilege to spend time with such wonderful young adults every day who show respect for others, value their education and build life up rather than tear it down." The K'NEX project at Grace Academy Darlaston was developed by the Aspire programme – which gives extra support to students in literacy and maths.

Walsall among the fastest growth areas across the UK

WALSALL and Wolverhampton are in the top 10 of the fastest-growing areas of the UK, according to new research.

The UHY Hacker Young study ranks Walsall as fifth and Wolverhampton as eighth for gross value added – the value of goods and services it produces – between 2009 and 2013.

Derby tops the table thanks to its economy being driven by growing automotive and aerospace businesses. All of the UK's top five fastest-growing economies can be found in the Midlands, where engineering and advanced manufacturing is powering a revival.

By John Corser

Derby's GVA per person grew 23 per cent from £22,613 in 2009 to £27,849 in 2013. Walsall increased 20 per cent from £13,323 to £15,978 and Wolverhampton was up 19 per cent from £16,474 to £19,548.

Worcestershire in 10th place rose 18 per cent from £15,677 to £18,454.

UHY Hacker Young said that the resurgence in the engineering and advanced manufacturing output of the Midlands in recent years, including Jaguar Land Rover, was helping to take the region's economy out of the doldrums.

The Midlands has also benefited from substantial investment from the aerospace indus-

try. Rolls-Royce, the world's second largest manufacturer of aircraft engines, currently employs over 12,000 people at its Derby site.

"The region also supplies systems to aircraft makers such as Airbus, BAE Systems and Boeing."

Malcolm Winston, partner at UHY Hacker Young in Birmingham, said: "It's been a difficult decade for some parts of the Midlands, but these figures show that the region's advanced manufacturing base is once again a huge growth driver."

"From Rolls-Royce aircraft engines to the latest Jaguar and Land Rover models, demand for advanced products manufactured in the Midlands has ensured that the region's economy has bounced back strongly from the recession."

Job vacancies on the rise

A LEADING recruiter says there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of jobs available for professionals in the West Midlands last month.

The contract recruitment index prepared by Venn Group, which monitors contractor demand across the West Midlands, saw the number of job vacancies advertised rise from 1,926 in April to 2,137.

It said there was a boom in demand for NHS workforce planners to tackle staff shortages and the finance sector was driving contractor demand.

Avtar Singh, director of Venn Group, said: "The West Midlands, like many other regions in the UK, has experienced a boom in the workforce planning and medical staffing arenas in light of recent staff shortages." "In attempts to streamline spending, many trusts are also drafting in financial planning professionals to realign NHS budgets for the new financial year."

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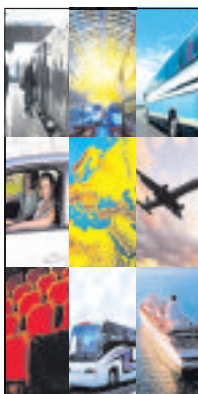
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£2m bridge revamp work stalled as appeal upheld

A £2 MILLION proposal to replace Pelsall's landmark York's Bridge has been left in the balance after a planning appeal against it by campaigners was upheld.

Proposals to build a new two-carriageway structure alongside the narrow canal bridge built in the 1800s were given the green light last year.



York's Bridge

Planning chiefs hoped to save the existing historic bridge, in Norton Road, plus use additional land from the common for the new bridge and widen the road which is a commuter route into Walsall.

The council said it was disappointed with the decision by the Planning Inspectorate and is now taking legal advice.

The project was given the nod by the council's planning committee in 2014 despite objections by residents who want the bridge, over the Wyrley & Essington Canal, to be renovated.

Pelsall Heritage Group and householders from the nearby Moat Farm Estate objected on the grounds that the council had failed to consider an alternative option to carry out specialist strengthening work to the humpback bridge to allow it to keep carrying traffic.

John Garfitt, of the campaign group, said: "We are very relieved this has been stopped in its tracks."

Walsall Council's former cabinet member for transport Lee Jeavons said: "Its brick arch construction, poor alignment and lack of footways make it unsuitable for modern traffic and given how busy that road is it's equally unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists."

"Our intention has been to provide a fit-for-purpose structure alongside the existing bridge. We're disappointed with the decision but remain committed to the scheme."

Church centre unveiled



Archdeacon of Walsall Susan Weller, Bishop of Lichfield Jonathan Gledhill and Rev John Coyne, at the opening

DOZENS of people marked the official unveiling of a new £1.4 million community church centre.

The dedication ceremony at Aldridge Parish Church was performed by Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Jonathan Gledhill. It marked the end of a project which has been worked on for around 15 years.


Church warden Kate Warner said: "We have had a number of false starts over the years so this has been a long time coming."

"The building was first constructed in 1948 and was only designed to last for 10 years so it has

outlasted itself. We are absolutely delighted now to have this facility which will help us deliver our work in the community."

Businesses have donated materials, while other funding has come in the form of grants and sponsorship. Ultimately, the congregation has made the facility a reality by providing around £800,000 towards the pot.

Lichfield Diocese has loaned the church about £300,000 to complete the project, but it is hoped the money will be repaid through the sale of land adjoining the church.



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Jools Holland



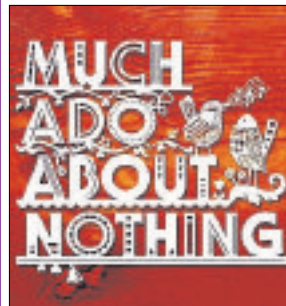
Saturday, 6.30pm
Civic Hall, W'ton
 Jools Holland makes a welcome return to the Civic Hall, with his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra and special guests promised, the night is not one to be missed.
 Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

The Apple Tree



Fri, Sat, 7.30pm (Sat - 2.30pm)
Gatehouse, Stafford
 From the brilliant song writing team behind Fiddler On The Roof comes another witty, tuneful and utterly charming musical The Apple Tree which takes place over three comedic vignettes.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Much Ado About Nothing



Thursday - July 11
Stafford Castle
 The cultural highlight of the summer returns with one of Shakespeare's wit-tiest comedies being staged at Stafford Castle from Thursday. Much Ado About Nothing focuses on two pairs of lovers.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Barbara Dickson



Saturday, 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, W'ton
 In this special performance Barbara Dickson, along with her accomplished band, explores her catalogue of songs at an intimate level letting the words and melodies take 'centre stage'.
 Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Jools Holland
 Sat at 6.30pm, £26 - £39.90
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Suzanne Vega
 Mon at 7.30pm
 £28.50 - £38.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Ray Quinn with his band
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £16.50 - £19.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Moody Blues
 Sat at 8pm, £47.39
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Ultimate Thunder + Pure Purple
 Fri at 7.30pm, £9 - £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Thank You for the Music
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £19.75 - £27.50
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Take That
 Mon, Tue at 7.30pm,
 £61.20 - £94.20
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Waterloo - The Best of ABBA
 Tribute Show
 Sat at 7.30pm, £23.40
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Bad Manners - The Best Of British Skat
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £22.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

RNB & SOUL

Jersey Boy feat: Stephen James
 Wed at 7.30pm, £6 - £8
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Session
 Wed at 8pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Mumbo Jumbo
 Fri at 8.30pm, £7 - £8
 Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY8 0AQ.
 Call 01384 27996

Chase Folk Singer's Night
 Fri at 8.30pm, £3
 The Five Ways Inn, Cannock, WS12 3HU.
 Call 01543 279022

Black Diamond Singers Night
 Fri at 8.30pm,
 The Lamp Tavern, Birmingham, B5 6AH. Call 0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
 Thu at 8pm, £2(£1 singers)
 Brewood Cricket Club, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

West Coast Eagles
 Thu at 8.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 401211

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

JAZZ & BLUES

The Blues Band
 Thu at 8pm, £19.50 - £24
 Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

Spacemane Apes
 Sat at 7pm, £5.50
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Layla Zoe & her band
 Sun at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Lichfield Blues and Jazz Festival
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £45
 Guildhall, Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Barbara Dickson in Concert
 Sat at 7.30pm, £29.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Local Live 2015

Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £10
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Only Men Around - On The Road
 Fri at 7.30pm, £23
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Paul Jacobs Recital
 Fri at 1pm, £9.50 - £20
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra presents Petrushka
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Cathedral Tercentenary Festival of Voices
 Sat at 5pm, £12 - £16
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Dresden Philharmonic
 Sun at 3pm, £9.50 - £43
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Big Band and Swing
 Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Indina Menzel - SOLD OUT
 Mon at 8pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

AC Academy Sing Symphony Hall - Armonico Consort
 Tues at 7pm, prices vary
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Summer Showcase
 Thur at 7.15pm, £12.50 - £41
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular Show
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 £19.90 - £25.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Boy Who Became A Beetle
 Fri at 1pm, 7.30pm, £5 - £28
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Be Festival 2015
 Mon at 12pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Merrily We Roll Along
 Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

An Evening of Clairvoyance ...
 Fri at 7.45pm, £12.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Redditch Has Talent
 Thu at 7pm, £5.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Movies to Musicals
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £9 - £45
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Dreamboats & Miniskirts
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £33.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

At Ease
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

The Carpenters Story
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 £18.90 - £26.40
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Apple Tree
 Fri and Sat at 7.30pm
 £7 - £8
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 Wed and Thur at 1pm and 4pm
 £16
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Much Ado About Nothing
 Thursday at 8pm, Prices Vary
 Stafford Castle.
 Call 01785 619080

DANCE

Carmina burana
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £16 - £47
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet - Sylvia
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £16 - £50
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Great Big Dance Off
 Mon at 3pm, 6.30pm, £11.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

On the Edge!
 Thu at 8pm, £10
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

Mark Grist and M C Mixy
 Fri at 7pm, £11.75 - £13.75
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

FASHION

Vintage Clothes Day
 Sun at 11am - 5pm, £1.50
 Crepe Station Cafe, 24 Stone Street, Dudley, DY1 1NT.
 Call 01384 238555

Wedding Open Evening
 Tue at 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
 West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF.
 Call 01299 40211

OTHER EVENTS

The Autism Show
 Sat at 9am, £11.00 Plus
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Toy Collectors Fair
 Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
 £2 - £6.50
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Summer Fete - Moat Hall Primary
 Fri at 3.30pm - 6.30pm, Free
 Moat Hall Primary School, Walsall, WS6 6BX.
 Call 441922857005

Berkswich Summer Fete
 Sun at 1.30pm, £0.50p - £1
 Milford Hall Cricket Club, Milford, Stafford, ST17 0UL.
 Call 01785 663960

The Quiz
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

ART EXHIBITIONS

Siân Macfarlane: Talk
 Sat at 2pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
 Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Liberated Quilt
 Tue, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 7pm, Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
 Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
 Call 01902 552507

Georgian Enamels
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free
 Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
 Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Back to the 60s at miniskirt musical



More than 40 hits from pop's greatest decade feature in Dreamboats and Miniskirts at the Grand next week

A SENSATIONAL 1960s jukebox musical will get audiences bopping in their seats at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Dreamboats and Miniskirts swings onto the stage on Tuesday for a five-day run.

The sequel to hit musical Dreamboats and Petticoats, it is again written by the top TV team of Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, duo behind Birds of a Feather, Shine on Harvey Moon and Goodnight Sweetheart.

Dreamboats and Petticoats became a musical phenomenon, playing to more than two million people across the UK. The musical was inspired by Universal's multi-million selling albums of vintage hits which now boasts seven double compilation albums and a myriad of special releases.

The creative team reunite to update the story to 1963, as the success of bands like The Beatles inspire Bobby and Laura to have one more shot at

stardom as we catch up with their mates, as teenagers turn into adults with new roles and responsibilities.

But the story is secondary to more than 40 great pop songs from the era delivered by a beehived and Mod-clothed cast of all-action performers.

Bill Kenwright's touring production has been getting enthusiastic reviews across the country and now it's Wolverhampton's turn to Hippy Hippy Shake with the best of them.



Frozen star is hottest ticket

BROADWAY and movie star Idina Menzel opens her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday and there will not be a spare seat in the house for the Tony Award-winner's eagerly-awaited concert.

She was most recently heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash Frozen, in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song Let It Go (the pop version was sung by Demi Lovato).

Menzel earned her first Tony nomination in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Rent and then won the award for her performance as Elphaba in Wicked, a role she played in New York, London and San Francisco.

The Long Island-raised singer's other best known roles include Rachel Berry's mother, Shelby Corcoran, on the hit television show Glee as well as starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Amy Adams in Disney's Enchanted. This year she presented the Oscar for Best Original Song and will be starring in the musical If/Then in America.

"Most of the songs are from shows that I've been in, and then other music I want to explore," Menzel says of her tour. "Although Let It Go is my only hit radio song in my career, I sort of consider songs like Defying Gravity and songs from Rent to be my other hit songs. My barometer for that is if I can put the microphone out and the audience can sing every word, then that's my hit song."

Her recent albums have included the original Broadway cast recording of If/Then and Live: Barefoot at the Symphony.

Face to face with Bowie's producer

ROCK producer Tony Visconti is coming to Birmingham with special guests to perform one of the favourite albums he worked on, David Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World.

The title song, a hit for Lulu and later Nirvana, came from Bowie's third studio album and its band was the nucleus of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders From Mars.

The American, who also produced artists ranging from T Rex to Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs, says it is long overdue that the album be performed in full live. He is enlisting Marc Almond, Heaven 17's Glen Gregory and original Spiders drummer Woody Woodmansey for the gig at the O2 Academy on June 29.

European festival transforms The Rep

BE Festival, Birmingham's festival of European theatre, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from June 23 to 27.

The festival's unique format gives the audience the opportunity to see four 30-minute long shows each night and eat dinner with performers in the interval.

This year's Be Festival spans five days and features 20 shows from nine European countries. The festival turns Birmingham Rep back-to-front, transforming the theatre's vast new workshop into a hub complete with lounge, bar and exhibition space.

Passes are available with or without dinner. See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk for details.

Canine eyes up the main trance

BILSTON rock and blues venue The Robin 2 hosts one of its strangest shows on Monday when Princess the Hypnodog, the mesmerising mutt who apparently hypnotised Simon Cowell on Britain's Got Talent, has a comedy hypnotism show with handler Krystyna Lennon. Tickets cost £16 on the door, or a pound less in advance from the Mount Pleasant venue, to see the canine Svengali. Go to www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Other acts coming up include ska veterans Bad Manners with Max Splodge on Saturday and Canadian blues singer Layla Zoe and her band on Sunday.

SHUGBOROUGH COUNTRY SHOW

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th June
between 10am - 5pm each day

Set in the beautiful parkland of Shugborough Hall, this family Country Show has all day entertainment that includes Jez Avery Stunt Bikes, the 'edu-tainingly wonderful' Sheep Show, Birds of Prey, Working Dogs, Practical Horse Demo with Grant Bazin, 17th Century Encampment plus Have-a-Go Dog Scurry with Pads Dog Training, children's entertainment with Banana Brain and there's Bouncy Castles and Children's Fairground too (charges apply). As well as willow sculpture, basket & trug makers, hurdle and greenwood coppice making, rush spoons there will also be other demonstration skills to enjoy and you can sample and buy in our Arts, Crafts and Gifts marquees as well as Lifestyle and Food Stalls. It's fully catered and has a licensed bar featuring real ales and scrumpy and all accompanied by the wonderfully infectious Plunkers Agricultural Band And on Sunday we're proud to host the Companion Dog Show Sponsored by Skinner's - proceeds from entries all go to Marie Curie Cancer Careso bring along a canine friend and have a go!

masses to see and do!

Shugborough Estate

Milford, Nr Stafford ST17 0XB
adm: £7.50 concs: £6 child age 5-16: £3 Family: £19 (2 adults + 2 children)
discounted pre-booked admission tickets at: www.oakleighfairs.co.uk/shuggage

oakleighfairs.co.uk | 01206 263088

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Comfortable corner seating



Very popular – have a try at the cocktail-making bar

No whining over this bar, it's the One for good food and friendly service

IT'S very rare that I am not rushing from work to review a show or concert in Birmingham.

So when one popped up on a Sunday evening I decided to make a day of it. A bit of retail therapy followed by a bit of wine therapy – perfect.

As the show was at the Symphony Hall the obvious eating choice was BrindleyPlace and it just so happened that a week or two earlier I had had an email on the Discover Wine Campaign at All Bar One, just over the canal bridge. As a wine lover this was just too good an opportunity to miss.

This stylish city bar, which recently had a major refurb, specialises in cocktails and runs its own cocktail-making classes – but more on that later. There is a large outside eating area but we opted for inside and were shown to our corner seat by a very friendly

By Sue Attwater

and helpful waiter called Bob. Menus already on the table, we very quickly decided to go for the 'small plates'. They advise five between two at a total cost of £26 – very good value at just £13 each for a share of actually very generous taster portions.

We opted for beetroot cured salmon gravlax with goat's curd and apple, coriander, za'atar spice mix and tzatziki, slow cooked pork with creamed potato, apple and vanilla ketchup and pork crackling, Szechuan-coated crispy calamari, with red chilli and served with wasabi dip, ginger teriyaki chicken skewers with pickled vegetables and sesame seeds and wild Patagonian prawns in garlic, chilli and lemon with grilled rosemary focaccia.

All very tasty and very well presented. The bar holds regular events including a

wine of the month and although the cocktails prove very popular with the young as we are now, how can I put it, a little more mature we do like a drop of wine.

Luckily for us the wine event was still running. It was due to end the middle of June but look out for it if it comes around again. It is definitely worth it.

Experience

So before our food arrived we were joined by team leader Shaun who took us through the different wines, and there were a lot of them! We were shown how to pick up the aromas and which wines went best with each of the dishes. Although young, Shaun has a wealth of experience in this field, some of it picked up on cruise ships.

We started with the white wines and after a while I was managing to pick out the different aromas but still had no idea of the

region. Then we moved on to our favourite, red wine, by which time I must admit I was probably getting a little bit tipsy.

Shaun advised to drink water between the different samples to clear out palate so at least the wine was being 'watered down' – after all I did have a show to review!

On to dessert and as I have a very sweet tooth I went for the chocolate, orange and mascarpone mousse cake. Delicious, the mascarpone count was on the menu but I didn't even bother checking. My husband went for lemon torte with raspberry sorbet.

Cocktails are very popular with the young and cocktail making classes are a big attraction. They cost £20 and include three cocktails. All Bar One is a perfect place to eat out or pop for a drink after work. And if you are going to the ICC, Barclaycard Arena the one at Waters Edge, BrindleyPlace is perfectly placed.



Enjoy a selection of different dishes

TOURS BY SPECIAL TRAIN WITH STATESMAN RAIL



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There is the opportunity to ride the delightful Ravenglass & Eskdale narrow gauge railway for a 14 mile journey through spectacular Lake District scenery to Eskdale, situated at the foot of England's highest mountain with most of the trains hauled by one of the little steam engines dating back to 1894. At the lines terminus there is an excellent cafe and the

opportunity to enjoy the tranquil beauty of the Fells with riverside walks. Supplement: £9

There are four classes of travel available but early booking is recommended as seats are selling fast.

Pullman Dining Class – Prices from £240: Included in the meal service is a full English breakfast, morning coffee & pastries and four course Dinner with champagne, canapés and wine.

Premier Dining Class – Prices from £220: Including full English breakfast & four course dinner.

First Class – Prices from £125: Including complimentary tea/coffee & biscuits.

Standard Class - Prices from £74: A Buffet Car is available for the sale of light refreshments.

Call Statesman Rail reservations on 0345 310 2458 or 2489, or book online www.statesmanrail.com



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CHOICE



Reggie Yates

Prized Apart (BBC1, 7pm)
Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize, as one member of each couple takes part in a series of challenges on location in Morocco, while the other is based at Farnborough airport, ready to answer a series of questions to potentially save their partner, should they find themselves in the bottom three and in danger of being eliminated. In this show, the challenges include a race through the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert, with the lowest-ranked three contestants flown back to their studio partners in the UK.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30 The Box.** (R) **12.00 BBC News;** Weather. **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 Tennis** from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the semi-finals on the sixth day at the Queen's Club in London. **4.45 Pointless Celebrities.** (R) **5.30 Formula 1 - Austrian Grand Prix:** Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the battle for pole position from the eighth round of the season at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg.
6.45 BBC News.
6.55 Regional Programme.
7.00 Prized Apart. Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize.
8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.55 Casualty. Dixie tries to help a mother, Suzy, who is grieving for her baby, but soon suspects that she has abducted another one to replace her own. Hospital drama, starring Jane Hazlegrove.
9.45 The John Bishop Show. The comedian presents another evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by the Vaccines and the Overtones, stand-up routines by Jimmie, Tanyalee Davis and Hal Crutenden, and a performance by Spark Fire Dance. Plus, Vikki Stone sings an ode to Professor Brian Cox.
10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.50 Not Going Out. Lucy decides she wants to have a baby, but is surprised to find the whole family taking a personal interest in the conception. Lee Mack, Sally Bretton and Katy Wix star. (R)
11.20 Room 101 - Extra Storage. Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn, West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R)
12.00 Film: The Rookie. (2002) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

7.55 Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) Comedy, starring Alastair Sim. **9.15 Animal Park.** (R) **9.45 Elephant Diaries.** (R) **11.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **12.00 Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial.** (R) **1.00 Live Abolition:** European Team Championships. Day one from Central Stadium in Chobokary, Russia. **5.30 Ocean Queens:** The Story of Cunard.
6.00 Gardeners' World. Joe Swift continues his mission to find the perfect hanging basket and Carol Klein visits one of the country's most beautiful gardens to find out why their borders work so well. (R)
6.30 Edwardian Farm. December arrives and the hardships of winter take their toll on Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman. As the traditional livelihood methods dry up, the men travel to the coast to embark on sea fishing, while Ruth has to look for domestic service work at a grand Edwardian stately home. (R)
7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon defends headquarters in an exercise against members of the Highland Regiment. Classic episode from 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
9.00 La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas. Amanda Vickery and Tom Service look at the story behind the opera's opening night in London in 1856, and its scandalous heroine, whose life and death were based on real-life events.
10.00 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)
10.35 Film: Hamlet 2. (2008) A failed actor-turned-drama teacher directs his students in a spectacular self-written musical sequel to Shakespeare's tragedy. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Catherine Keener.
12.00 The Many Faces of Robbie Coltrane. (R) **1.00 Film:** Good Hair. (2009) **2.30 Sign Zone:** Watchdog. (R) **3.30 Rip Off Britain:** Food. (R) **4.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super 4.** (R) **7.45 Nerds & Monsters.** (R) **8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather. **12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.40 Tipping Point.** (R) **2.40 1000 Heartbeats.** (R) **3.35 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park. (1997) Dinosaur adventure sequel, with Jeff Goldblum.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy meets slapstick as Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, including a feline performance of Wuthering Heights and the International Toddler Throwing Championship. Plus, a man who speaks sea-lion and a crow that hates cashmere. (R)
7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. (2005) The adolescent wizard is unexpectedly chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a prestigious magical tournament, despite being legally too young to enter. He joins champions of three other magical academies to face deadly monsters in a series of challenges. Meanwhile, the followers of the dreaded Lord Voldemort plot to restore their master to the land of the living. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Brendan Gleeson and Robert Pattinson.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.10 Film: Raw Deal. (1986) A former FBI agent is offered reinstatement if he can infiltrate the Chicago Mob and bring a killer to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kathryn Harrold.
12.10 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.30 Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire.** **7.00 The Grid.** **7.30 FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00 Royal Ascot: The Morning Line.** **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Royal Ascot: Channel 4 Racing.** Clare Balding and Nick Luck present live coverage of the fifth and final day of the festival, featuring races at 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.20, 5.00 and 5.35.
6.00 Couples Come Dine with Me. Three couples from south Wales compete for the £1,000 prize, featuring a Welsh-themed evening, a series of personal revelations and a night of extravagance. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes in search of the richest stories from the nation's past. He begins with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District, where the world's industrial revolution was born. (R)
8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. New series. Penelope Keith explores British villages, finding out about their traditions, and also how their way of life is being threatened, beginning with a trip to East Anglia.
9.00 Film: Rush. (2013) Premiere. The 1976 Formula One Championship season is dominated by a fierce rivalry between two contrasting racers, as daredevil British driver James Hunt and methodical Austrian defending champion Niki Lauda put their lives on the line to outdo each other on the track. Fact-based drama, starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Brühl and Olivia Wilde.
11.25 Film: Basic Instinct. (1992) A hard-drinking cop investigating a murder case lets his feelings for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect cloud his judgement. Thriller, with Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas.
1.50 Royal Ascot Highlights. **2.20 Hollywood.** (R) **4.30 The Renovation Game.** (R) **5.20 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.35 Access.** **10.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **11.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **12.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **1.45 Film:** Columbo: Publish or Perish. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 The Dog Rescuers** with Alan Davies. (R) **4.10 GPs:** Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)
6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement officers Paul, Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Action from the final one-day international of the five-match series, held at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. Documentary following the inhabitants of the seaside village of Jayville in Essex, where more than half of the residents are on state welfare. Tony Taylor claims £51.40 a week and does odd jobs in exchange for food, enabling his benefits money to go a bit further, while Claire has moved from east London's Canning Town in search of a better life with her fiancé Luke, their young baby and her two older children, who live with a host of pets in a two-bedroom house. (R)
9.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R)
10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
11.00 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Brittany Murphy. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of an actress in December 2009, uncovering evidence of a paranoid personality fuelled by prescription drugs. (R)
12.00 SuperCano. **3.10 Big Brother.** (R) **4.00 Person of Interest.** (R) **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.45** Top Gear **8.45** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Him & Her: The Wedding **3.40** Jenny Bede: AAA **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Sounds of the Sixties **7.30** BBC Cardiff Singer of the World **2015** **9.00** Film: King of Devil's Island (2010) **10.50** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **11.50** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **12.50** Prince: A Purple Reign **1.50** Disco at the BBC **2.50** Sounds of the Sixties **3.20** Close
ITV2
11.05 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **12.55** Film: The Perfect Man (2005) **3.00** The Hot Desk: Stereo Kicks **3.15** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.40** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **6.50** Film: The Man (2006) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: The Back-up Plan (2010) **12.10** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.40** Love Island **1.35** Crazy Beaches **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.35 Inspector Morse **2.55** Lewis **4.50** Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **6.55** Doc Martin **7.55** Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Film in the Blood **1.30** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.10** Gunsmoke **1.15** Film: The Far Country (1954) **3.15** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **5.45** Film: Fastest (2011) **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **11.55** Film: That Thing Called Tula (2009) **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Made in Chelsea **10th** Episode Special **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00** Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **5.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Predators (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** How I Met Your Mother **2.20** Broke Girls **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Rules of Engagement **4.20** Jane the Virgin **5.05** Suburgatory
Film4
11.00 California Man (1992) **1.00** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **3.50** The Andromeda Strain (1971) **6.25** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Kingdom of Heaven (2005) **12.45** The Bay (2012) **2.25** Bruno (2009) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Sheridan Smith

Black Work (ITV, 9pm)
New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer whose husband is murdered. She is expected to leave the investigation to her colleagues, but finds herself losing trust in them and goes behind their backs to track down the killer herself. However, her investigation places her and her children in jeopardy. Also starring Sharon Duce, Geraldine James, Douglas Henshall, Matthew McNulty, Kenny Doughty, Honor Kneafsey, Oliver Woolford, Andrew Knott, Ace Bhatti, Carla Henry, Lisa Dillon, Andrew Gower and Ben-Ryan Davies.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Yoga: Bend it Like Britain. **2.50** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.05** Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Highlights. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team visits East Yorkshire, where Ellie Harrison helps the RSPB check seabird numbers. John Craven, Bill Bailey and Naomi Wilkinson launch this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredegar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car and a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge. Last in the series. **9.00** Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. Strange is determined to learn the secrets of fairy magic so he can restore Arabella. Believing madness is the key to accessing the fairy world, he seeks a way to drive himself insane. However, the Gentleman does not take kindly to the intrusion into his realm, and unleashes a terrible curse to stop him. Norrell's determination to maintain control of all magic in England costs him dearly when the government turns against him, and Vinculus offers Stephen a means to escape from the Gentleman's clutches. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Live at the Apollo. Rich Hall hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo, doing his own thing before introducing routines by Mark Watson and Andrew Maxwell. (R) **11.15** My Big Beautiful Wedding Dress. Documentary meeting Jo and Alison, best friends and owners of a boutique bridal shop in Essex that specialises in wedding dresses for plus-size women. (R) **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Greatest Gardens. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Box. (R) **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. (R) **12.30** Live Athletics: European Team Championships. Day two from Central Stadium in Cheboksary, Russia. **2.05** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the final at the Queen's Club in London, which was won by Grigor Dimitrov last year. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **5.35** Flog It! Claire Rawle and Michael Baggett value antiques in Longleat. (R) **6.20** Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice. (2010) A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina. **8.00** Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain head into Guatemala as they continue their road trip, visiting Lake Atitlan to pay their respects to Mayan deity Maximón, exploring the ancient colonial city of Antigua and scaling the nearby active volcano Pacaya. (R) **9.00** The BBC at War. Part two of two. Jonathan Dimbleby reveals how the BBC provided coded information to resistance groups, and tells the stories of reporters working with military units during D Day. **10.00** Film: Blood. (2012) Premiere. Two policemen brothers living in the shadow of their father's reputation are consumed with paranoia after committing a crime. Thriller, with Paul Bettany and Brian Cox. **11.30** The Clare Balding Show. World Snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan; Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis and England bowler Graeme Swann join Clare in the sports magazine chat show. Last in the series. (R) **12.00** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last-16 game (Kick-off 12.30am). **2.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.35** Off Their Rockers Blue Badge Special. (R) **3.05** Film: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni. **4.50** Midsomer Murders. Jones infiltrates a cult to investigate a woman's disappearance, but he and Barnaby soon start digging into an old case involving the death of a couple in a boat explosion. (R) **6.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **7.00** ITV News; Weather. **7.15** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. **8.00** Surprise Surprise. New series. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public as the revived show returns for a fourth series. Lionel Richie surprises one of his biggest fans, two rugby fans enjoy the perfect sporting day out, and a tale of wartime romance leads to a family reunion that crosses the Atlantic. **9.00** Black Work. New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.15** Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Eight celebrities face a challenging 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, competing to remain in the programme and get through to the final. (R) **11.15** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: June Brown. The EastEnders actress chats to Piers Morgan about her life and career, including her early work in the theatre and the challenges of juggling work and her home life. (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Cycling: The London Nocturne 2015. (R) **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** The Simpsons. (R) **9.00** The Simpsons. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) A teenager learns he is the son of Greek god Poseidon, and finds himself in the middle of a feud between immortals. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **6.40** Channel 4 News. **6.40** Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. Kevin travels to the foothills of the Andes in Chile to meet a family of five from south London who quit the daily grind to build a new home in the shadow of an active volcano. (R) **8.00** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. New series. George Clarke presents this year's competition. The first episode features normal sheds, which include a miniature railway shed, a makeshift observatory with a retractable roof and advanced telescope, a shed that doubles as a boat and a home cinema that is also home to a collection of movie memorabilia. The judges also cast their eyes over some environmentally friendly builds, including a shed shaped like an owl, a highland bothy, a geodesic dome and a building made entirely out of mud. **9.00** Humans. George is assigned a new Synth whom he cannot stand. Laura feels threatened by Anita, and Fred is held captive in Hobbs' facility, which leads him to fear for the human race. Sci-fi drama, starring William Hurt, Rebecca Front and Katherine Parkinson. **10.00** Film: I, Robot. (2004) A detective is convinced a robot has killed its creator, even though it has been programmed never to harm humans. Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith and Bridget Moynahan. **12.15** Rude Tube. (R) **1.10** Film: Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo. (1999) **2.40** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.35** The Renovation Game. (R) **4.30** SuperScrippers. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.20** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.05** Lazy Town. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.55** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Film: Are We Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Ice Cube. **4.30** Film: The Hunchback of Notre Dame. (1998) Disney animation, with the voices of Tom Hulce and Demi Moore. **6.10** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) An unlucky-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be an overprotective nightmare who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Dave Spikay and Ellie Taylor introduce one final compilation of animal antics, turning the spotlight back on to the hilarious hijinks of pets of all shapes and sizes, with resident animal behaviourist Professor Peter Neville on hand to explain the science behind the comical clips. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** Big Brother. Marcus Bentley narrates a round-up of highlights, including the latest round of nominations and the announcement of who is up for eviction on Friday night. **10.00** Film: The Other Guys. (2010) Two desk-bound incompetent cops get the chance to become heroes when they stumble across a tycoon's illegal activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. **12.10** Manchester's Gang Wars: Exposed. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last 16 game (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.05** Family Guy **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.30** Great TV Mistakes **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping Tonight? **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2015 – The Final **9.30** Judi Dench in Conversation with Richard Eyre **10.30** Film: Iris (2014) **12.00** Glastonbury Golden Greats **1.00** Festivals Britannia **2.30** Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker **3.30** Close
ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.45** The Hot Desk: Alesha Dixon **1.55** Film: Mike and Lizzy (2007) **4.00** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **5.55** Love Island **6.55** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **11.50** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.50** Love Island **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.25 Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **1.30** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Little House **11.05** Film: The Human Star (2003) **1.15** Blue Murder **2.30** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale **ITV4**
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.15** Pawn Stars **3.00** Film: Destry Rides Again (1939) **4.55** Film: The Far Country (1954) **7.00** Pawn Stars **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.40** Film: Smokin' Aces (2007) **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.00 The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Film: The Addams Family (1991) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Googlebox **12.10** The Goldbergs **1.10** Tattoos After Dark **2.10** Virtually Famous MIC Takeover **2.50** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Hollywoods **Film4**
11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **3.05** Porridge (1979) **5.00** Leap Year (2010) **7.00** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Enemy at the Gates (2001) **11.40** What Happens in Vegas (2005) **1.40** Whisper of the Heart (1995) **4.00** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Man for All Seasons, BBC2, 3.15pm
Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon leads to a clash with the Roman Catholic Church and his own lord chancellor Sir Thomas More. To force his will, the king declares himself the supreme head of the Church of England and demands More's approval – but when he fails to get it, he puts his former adviser on trial for his life. Oscar-winning adaptation of Robert Bolt's history play, with Paul Scofield. (1966)

TUESDAY
Sparkle, BBC1, 11.50pm
A Liverpoolian travels to London and ends up landing a job in the PR business. Sleeping with his female boss gives his career a welcome boost – but things become complicated when he falls for her daughter. Meanwhile, his pub singer mother also finds romance. Comedy drama, starring Shaun Evans, Stockard Channing, Bob Hoskins and Lesley Manville. (2006)



Fallen, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY
The 19th Wife, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. The wife of a member of a polygamous cult is accused of killing her husband, leaving it up to her excommunicated son to prove her innocence. Drama, starring Chyler Leigh, Matt Czuchy and Patricia Wettig. (2010)

THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery II: All That Glitters, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Bargain hunter-cum-amateur sleuth Jennifer investigates when the owner of a storage unit is murdered, hours after an auction. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2014)

FRIDAY
Fallen, BBC1, 11.55pm
A detective investigates a series of grisly murders that mimic the handiwork of an executed serial killer. The case takes a stranger twist when he realises a bloodthirsty disembodied demon is responsible – and that it can leap from one unsuspecting host to another. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington, John Goodman, Donald Sutherland and Embeth Davidtz. (1998)



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Or maybe you did want to go, but postponed it for another year, or were one of the unlucky thousands who just didn't manage to secure one of the prized festival tickets.

Well fear not, non-campers, the BBC is pulling out all the stops again this year to take viewers right to the heart of one of the biggest events in the global music calendar.

Presented for the first time under the BBC Music umbrella, this year audiences can hear the music and see what's exactly going on over three days at Worthy Farm in Somerset, from the big headline acts on the main stages, through to new and emerging talent.

Some of the BBC's best-known faces will deliver unparalleled coverage across TV, radio and digital platforms from six stages, including the BBC Introducing stage, starting

tonight (Friday) and continuing right through until after the final headlines finish on the Sunday evening.

It all kicks-off when The One Show's Chris Evans and Alex Jones present their usual show live from Glastonbury.

Then over on BBC Two, traditionally the home of the big headline acts, Lauren Laverne, Jo Whitley, and Mark Radcliffe, present coverage of the opening night's acts, culminating with the headline set by the Foo Fighters on the Pyramid Stage.

Greg James and Clara Amfo will be providing a younger perspective over on BBC Three, with headliners Rudimental being broadcast from the Other Stage later that night.

Throughout the weekend viewers can expect to see classic and contemporary acts on BBC Four, including Florence + The Machine and Paloma Faith.

Extended highlights of over performances from the Pyramid, Other, John Peel, West Holts and BBC Introducing stages will be available to watch on demand following the event.

As always this year's line-up has caused some debate.

He may divide opinion, but there's no denying rapper Kanye West will inject a healthy dose of the ridiculous into his headline set on the Saturday night.

Hit settlist will probably be made up of new tracks from his upcoming album SWISH, along with fan-favourites such as All of the Lights, Jesus Walks and Stronger.

Then on the Sunday, to celebrate their 50th anniversary, rock legends The Who will close Glastonbury, rounding off the weekend with famous singalongs My Generation, Pinball Wizard and Substitute.

Motown legend Lionel Richie takes pride of place on the Sunday afternoon 'Dolly Parton' slot this year, while there are also sets from established acts like Mary J Blige, Motorhead, Suede, Patti Smith, Paul Weller, The Chemical Brothers, as well as emerging talent such as Years & Years, Rae Morris, Wolf Alice, Soak, Saint Raymond, Sunset Sons and Tourist.



Florence and the Machine feature, Glastonbury 2015, Friday, BBC2, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Nigel Slater: Eating Together BBC1, 7.30pm
Nigel's tour of the flavours of Britain takes him from a classic Lancashire hotpot to three melt-in-the-mouth one-pot dishes with origins from around the world. He meets Yasmin, whose fesenjoon takes her back to her childhood in Iran, gets a lesson in Brazil's national dish feijoada from brothers Andre and Anderson, and discovers the delicate flavours of a traditional Bangladeshi korma as he joins Enam and his family to celebrate Eid. Inspired by their dishes, Nigel creates a luxurious bean hotpot bejewelled with beetroot and carrot.

The £100K House: The Final Fix BBC2, 8pm
In case you've missed both series of The House That £100k Built (it's popped up with little or no fanfare on BBC Two during the last couple of years), and the first part of this programme, the premise is simple: architectural historian Kieran Long (of Restoration Home fame) and architect Piers Taylor meet various couples who have a budget of £100k with which to construct the house of their dreams - and to date, they've witnessed some pretty amazing results. But, once the dust settled, how have the homeowners got on? Are they

still blissfully happy with their achievements? Last week, Taylor visited one batch of builders, and now he's catching up with a woman who constructed her property in the Scottish borders, as well as a couple of Devon farmers.

TUESDAY
The Bank: A Matter of Life and Debt BBC2, 9pm
Since the 2008 banking crash, the public's faith in banks is at an all-time low. Filmed over a year at the NatWest branch in Huddersfield, this series explores our tempestuous relationship with our finances and the banks we choose to help us look after them. NatWest is owned by RBS, which was bailed out by the government and is 79-per-cent owned by the taxpayer. So when their customers feel they aren't getting a fair deal, even more focus is placed on the bank. Deputy bank manager Claire is challenged to improve the branch's customer service score, but when customer Alan fumes over a missing cheque, and another, Chris, complains about the mortgage advice he's been given, this seems like an impossible task.



The £100K House: The Final Fix, Monday, BBC2, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Don't Tell the Bride BBC1, 8pm
The Bafta-nominated series, which follows the journey of couples as the groom is put in charge of planning their upcoming weddings, moves from BBC Three to BBC One. The opening episode focuses on bride-to-be Jenni and her fiancé Andrew. Jenni is one of life's romantics, but her confidence has been knocked by a disability caused by pregnancy. As her dutiful carer, Andrew's romantic side seems to have fallen by the wayside as everyday demands take their toll. However, with three weeks and £14,000 to work with, Andrew is now planning a fun-filled, big top-themed wedding to give them both a break from their troubled lives. Can he pull it off? And will Jenni be happy with the results?

THURSDAY
Superhospital ITV, 9pm
Channel 4 has 24 Hours in A&E, while the BBC weighs in with An Hour to Save Your Life.

Now ITV is entering the medical docusoap stakes with a new series that takes viewers behind the scenes at the Royal Derby Hospital. Its producers visited 20 institutions and lumped for this one because it's a large, modern hospital which provides a wide range of services. But cameras won't be focusing on how the place is run. Instead, it's the human stories they want to capture, those involving both staff and patients. The opening episode introduces viewers to some of those they will get to know over the next four weeks, including Jayne, a sister on the liver ward, who loves her job and is about to celebrate 40 years in nursing.

FRIDAY
The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Following three election specials aired earlier this spring, the award-winning show returns for a full series of irreverent satire as Adam Hills and co-hosts Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker tear into the week's main talking points. The trio offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK? As usual, they are joined by a live studio audience and a celebrity guest, which this week is actor, writer and director Stephen Merchant.

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Property

Express & Star

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

18101022231946

152524764231111

1625253743245

12222182225924222

212626121418

2223513256221811262322

251411

1226202025221023262122

322221151525

1012218222316261622

101826242241525

25101742122261323

1321261018172322

114

215

316

417

518

619

720

821

922

1023

1124

1225

1326

R

I

I

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Q	X	F	W	I	D	L	U	J	N	C	K	
Y	M	P	V	O	T	E	H	R	A	Z	S	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- Across**

 - Our lot (4)
 - Serving men and women operate from behind it (4-4)
 - Get carried away (4)
 - Don't allow to come out (8)
 - Just one instance of an infectious disease? (8,4)
 - Approaching the age of rebellion? (6)
 - On average, one child is a clergyman (6)
 - From which to draw money for the meat? (5,7)
 - Countrymen give vegetables to workers (8)
 - Kind of gun having catches reversed (4)
 - I'd turn a sickly colour and refuse permission (8)
 - You might say it when offering a gift or present (4)
- Down**

 - Skin specialists (8)
 - It is very boring and is due to be altered (7)
 - Morning spent being entertained (6)
 - Hope engendered by the will? (10)
 - Sadie gets wrong thoughts (5)
 - Some conversed in Gaelic (4)
 - Service no longer used by gunners (10)
 - Scent in a new form, for example (8)
 - Dash off for coal (7)
 - One who has benefited from America's troubles (6)
 - Love slap up jewelery (5)
 - Copied some cheap editions (4)

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
8							
			10				
11							
13				14		15	
				16			
	17	18					
19							
20					21		
22					23		

Quick Clues:

- Across**

 - Properly (4)
 - Progressed (8)
 - Despatch (4)
 - Scholarly (8)
 - Preliminary (12)
 - Get away (6)
 - Battled (8)
 - New birth (12)
 - Not eatable (8)
 - Fete (4)
 - Blow up (8)
 - A metal (4)
- Down**

 - Scorned (8)
 - Madman (7)
 - Diversion (6)
 - Extra (10)
 - Singers (5)
 - Nightfall (4)
 - Finishing (10)
 - Model (8)
 - Wry face (7)
 - Little ball (6)
 - Expel (5)
 - Untamed (4)

Sudoku

		1		6				2
	3	4			2		7	8
8			9			1		6
9			3		5			
		8		2		6		
					1			7
2	9	5		6				1
	4					8	2	
1				4	8	3		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8
8	1	3	2	4	9	7	5	6
9	2	5	8	7	1	4	3	6
7	9	2	4	3	8	5	6	1
1	6	3	2	9	5	7	4	8
4	5	7	1	6	8	9	2	3
6	3	9	5	8	7	1	2	4
5	7	4	1	6	2	3	8	9
2	8	1	9	4	3	6	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 High-pitched; 9 Adamant; 10 Idiot; 11 Tress; 12 Chequer; 13 Reform; 15 Accent; 18 Incur; 20 Urged; 22 Chide; 23 Outrage; 24 Intemperate. Down: 2 Image; 3 Hoarser; 4 Intact; 5 Clive; 6 Epicure; 7 Masterpiece; 8 Star-studded; 14 Fiction; 16 Counter; 17 Recoup; 19 Niece; 21 Graft. QUICK - Across: 1 Appropriate; 9 Grapple; 10 Aware; 11 Outrage; 12 Sleuth; 13 Impost; 15 Astral; 18 Ignoble; 20 Brass; 22 Union; 23 Trivial; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Plant; 3 Repress; 4 Please; 5 Inane; 6 Traitor; 7 Ignominious; 8 Senselessly; 14 Pen-sive; 16 Subsid; 17 Better; 19 Binge; 21 Align.

Quiz

- In the novel Gulliver's Travels what was Gulliver's christian name?
- In which year did Castro seize power in Cuba?
- With which art form do you associate Louis Daguerre?
- Of which country was King Zog monarch?
- Which Oscar-winning actor was born Reginald Truscott-Jones?
- What is the 49th state of the United States of America?
- Which year saw the birth of Isaac Newton and the death of Galileo?
- When did the League of Nations come into being?
- In which country is the mountain Aconcagua?
- What does the musical term andante mean?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jerry Lewis; 2 Mahatma Gandhi; 3 W.B. Yeats; 4 A storm; 5 Trees; 6 1872; 7 Mikhail Gorbachev; 8 The Music Man; 9 Trombone; 10 Santiago. Niner: COLUMBINE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

692 gives a cereal grass,
48237 gives another cereal grass,
6512 gives a flower.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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185/55/15	£32.00	£31.00
185/60/15	£32.00	£31.00
185/65/15	£35.00	£33.00
195/50/15	£35.00	£33.00
195/60/15	£35.00	£33.00
195/65/15	£35.00	£33.00
205/55/16	£35.00	£34.00
215/55/16	£39.00	£36.00
225/45/17	£42.00	£39.00
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Extended and improved residence with garden



AN impressive traditional detached property in Skip Lane, Walsall has been extended and improved.

Occupying a generous plot, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £575,000.

Also with a two car tandem garage and large frontage with block-paved parking, it has a porch, an inviting reception hall with wooden flooring, a downstairs shower room/WC, an impressive through lounge with French doors, feature fireplace with a flame-effect gas fire. There is also a lobby area with ceramic tiled flooring and walk-in pantry, utility room, spacious fitted kitchen with a five-ring gas hob, extractor, electric oven, integrated dishwasher, wall and splash-back tiling and spotlights, an impressive conservatory, landing/study area, five double bedrooms (one en suite) and a large bathroom.

Call Edwards Moore on 01922 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



Home is in a very sought after area

IMMACULATELY presented, this detached house on the popular Turnberry development in Selsdon Road, Bloxwich includes a spacious lounge and dining room.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £175,000.

Having a driveway and side garage it also has an entrance lobby, WC, a lounge with Art Deco-style fireplace, a dining area, kitchen, pantry cupboard and a door leading to the rear garden, first floor landing, bedroom one with built-in wardrobes with mirror sliding doors, two further bedrooms, a bathroom with a contemporary-style suite with a bath with a shower over and tiled flooring.

Outside is a low maintenance rear garden. For further information call 01922 711444 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



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- Spacious Kitchen



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- Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Garage, Large Driveway, Rear Garden

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- Gas CH Majority D Glaz, Gardens, No Chain



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- Family room
- Refitted breakfast kitchen



- Bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Double glazing • Gas CH
- Garage

£365,000



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- Stunning Gardens
- Hall with Guests WC



- Lounges
- Superb Dining Kitchen / Family Room
- Garage

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ESSINGTON SWYNNERTON DRIVE

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- Open Plan 24ft Lounge/Dining



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- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Garage, Driveway
- Pleasant Gardens

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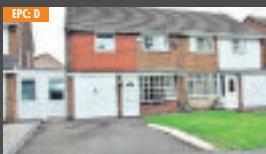
WILLENHALL SNEYD LANE

- Attractively Presented Three Bedroom Period Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Superb Kitchen



- Stunning Bathroom
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- Well presented extended family home
- Excellent location
- Three good size bedrooms
- Generous dining kitchen



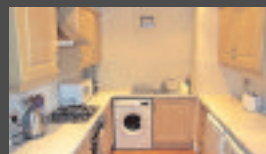
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SHORT HEATH BENTLEY LANE

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- Lounge
- Large Bathroom
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FOR SALE



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BRAEMAR CLOSE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



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O.I.R.O £145,000

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Immaculate Four Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Porch, Hall, 24ft Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, W.C, Games Room. Extensive Parking, Garden & Workshop. MUST VIEW!

£289,995

BENTLEY

MONMOUTH ROAD, WALSALL

FOR SALE



Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, 26ft Sun Room & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear. MUST VIEW!

O.I.R.O £160,000

WOODLANDS

HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Plot.

£165,000

THE HAYES

CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Three/Four Bed Link Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C & Bedroom. Three First Floor Bedrooms & Jack And Jill Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.

£165,000

COPPICE FARM

LOCALSH GROVE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, En-Suite Shower To Master & Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

£199,995

SHORT HEATH

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£270,000

SHORT HEATH

BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL

FOR SALE



Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.

£270,000

HADLEY HEATH

FOR SALE



PACKWOOD CLOSE, W'HALL One Bed Town House. Comprises Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Front Garden, Off Road Parking Area To Side & Separate Enclosed Garden To The Rear. £82,000

£82,000

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



CORNWALL PLACE, WALSALL Two Bed Ground Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Paved Fore Garden & Private Garden To Rear With Brick Built Outhouse. OIRO £85,000

OIRO £85,000

FOR SALE



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL Immaculate Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & E/H. Outside There Is A Secure Gated Parking Space And Garage. MUST VIEW! £89,995

£89,995

DARLSTON

FOR SALE



BOOTH STREET, WEDNESBURY Two Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. Two Allocated Parking Spaces To Rear. £90,000

£90,000

NEW INVENTION

FOR SALE



FARMHOUSE WAY, W'HALL Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. Part G/C/H. Gardens To Both The Front And Rear. Great BTL or FTB. £90,000

£90,000

DARLSTON

FOR SALE



PERRY STREET, WEDNESBURY Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. MUST VIEW! £92,500

£92,500

REEDSWOOD

FOR SALE



PARKVIEW CRES, WALSALL Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Detached Garage, Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear. £109,995

£109,995

FOR SALE



TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C & First Floor Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. D/R/P To Fore. Enclosed Rear Garden. MUST VIEW! £109,995

£109,995

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear. £110,000

£110,000

FOR SALE



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Inner Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Generous Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Sun Room & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To The Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear. £124,995

£124,995

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Rear Garden. Great FTB! OIRO £130,000

OIRO £130,000

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Driveway Parking & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear. £140,000

£140,000

FOR SALE



BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL Extended Five Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, W.C, Sitting Room, Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway To Fore & An Enclosed Garden To Rear. £155,000

£155,000

COPPICE FARM

FOR SALE



HIGHMOOR CLOSE, WILLENHALL Two Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden. £169,995

£169,995

FOR SALE



BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear. £185,000

£185,000

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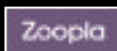
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Woodall Street, Walsall

- Four Bed Detached
- Viewing Essential
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Shower Room

Monthly Rental Of £750



Astbury Close, Walsall

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Completely Refurbished
- Entrance Hall/ Downstairs W.C.
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £695



Poole Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Porch/Hallway
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £675



Brickyard Road, Walsall

- Refurbished Apartment
- Modern Kitchen And Bathroom
- Secure Parking Through Electrically Operated Gates
- High Specification Throughout
- Desirable Location

Monthly Rental Of £575



Kensington Road, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Link Detached
- Large Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £575



Trees Road, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating & D. Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £550



Kirkstall Crescent, Walsall

- Large Three Bedroom Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Viewings Highly Advised

Monthly Rental Of £550



Springfields, Walsall

- Entrance Hall
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £525



Blakenall Lane, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Recently Refurbished
- New Flooring Throughout
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- New Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £525



Ingestre Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £525



Belper Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £500



Glastonbury Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



Valley Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £495



West Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Very Well Presented
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £495



Walker Road, Walsall

- Entrance Hall FULLY FURNISHED
- Ground Floor
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Bathroom with Shower
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



Tintern Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Area
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £475



Stafford Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- New Build
- Intercom Access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom En-Suite
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475



Bagnall Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Toilet
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £475



Thornbury Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Above Retail Premises
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Allocated Parking Space
- Quiet Location
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £460



Walker Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £450



Terret Close, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Electric Heating & Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



Walker Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



Harden Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- New Build
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating & D. Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425



Gallery Square, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all Transport Links
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



Leamore Lane, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425



Cairns Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425



Norton Road, Walsall

- NO REFERENCING FEES
- Pelsall Village Centre
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £425



Bloxwich Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Parking Space
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



Bridge Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all transport links & amenities

Monthly Rental Of £400



Stafford Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- New Build
- Top Floor
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £375



Harrison Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



Moat Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Flat Above Retail Premises
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Close to Town Centre & Manor Hospital
- DHSS Accepted

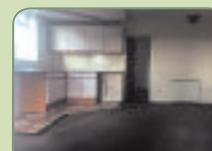
Monthly Rental Of £350



The Exchange, Walsall

- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Bloxwich High Street Location
- Lounge/Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall

- One Bedroom Property
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325

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LET!

Swallowdale, Walsall

- FANTASTIC Four Bedroom Family Home
- Private Cul De Sac Location
- Two Reception Rooms Plus Sun Room
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms With Fitted Furniture
- Master Ensuite

Monthly Rental Of £795



LET!

Gurnard Close, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended
- Entrance porch/Hall
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.

Monthly Rental Of £650




LET!

Clockmill Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Completely Refurbished
- New Flooring Throughout
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Bathroom with Shower Over Bath
- Through Lounge with Patio Doors

Monthly Rental Of £595




LET!

Ogley Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall/Lounge
- Dining Room
- Downstairs Shower Room
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £575



LET!

Broadway, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom/Ensuite
- Bathroom
- Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £550



LET!

Mellish Road, Walsall

- Conveniently Located First Floor Apartment
- Within Walking Distance Of Walsall Town And Walsall Arboretum
- Refitted Kitchen And Bathroom
- Two Large Double Bedrooms

Monthly Rental Of £550



LET!

Coppice Road, Walsall Wood

- Two Bedroom Modern Apartment
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Master Ensuite
- Off Road Parking and Communal Grounds

Monthly Rental Of £525

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LET!

Brickyard Road, Walsall

- Secure Gated Entrance
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £525




LET!

King George Crescent, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Recently Refurbished
- New Flooring Throughout
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Separate Utility

Monthly Rental Of £525




LET!

New Forest Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Fitted Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £500



LET!

Cope Street, Walsall

- Three Bed Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Coalmeadow Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Hawbush Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Primley Avenue, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Side Passageway
- Family Bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

Tame Street East, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

Primley Avenue, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Downstairs Shower Room
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

Stafford Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge
- Ground Floor
- New Build
- Intercom Access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom En-Suite

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

Millfield Avenue, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Lounge
- Kitchen / Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Utility Area & WC
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450



LET!

Bridge Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all transport links & amenities

Monthly Rental Of £400



LET!

Taverners Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Front Garden

Monthly Rental Of £395

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High Road Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
 - No upward chain
 - Requires modernisation
 - EPC - E, 2 Reception rooms
- OFFERS AROUND: **£109,950**

Clary Grove Walsall



- Mid Terrace Residence in a cul de sac location
 - Double Glazing & Electric Heating
 - Reception Hall
 - EPC Rating D, Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£109,950**

Castleview Road Bilston



- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - EPC - D, Driveway
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**

Langley Avenue Bilston



- Charming 2 bedroom terraced house
 - Driveway
 - Lounge
 - EPC - D, Kitchen/Diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**

Broadmoor Close Bilston



- 3 Bedroom detached house
 - Immaculate condition
 - Entrance porch and hallway
 - Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**

Bay Avenue Bilston



- 4 Bedroom end terrace house
 - Downstairs wc
 - Kitchen
 - EPC - C, Dining area
- OFFERS AROUND: **£155,000**

Moseley Road Bilston



- Traditional 3 bedroom detached house
 - Entrance porch and hallway
 - Dining room
 - Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£179,950**

Finchfield Lane Wolverhampton



- Traditional Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Entrance Porch • Reception Hallway
- OFFERS AROUND: **£225,000**

Uplands Road Willenhall



- 4 Bedroom detached dormer bungalow
 - Entrance porch and hall
 - Lounge
 - EPC - E, Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**

Russell Street Willenhall



- 5% Deposit Paid
 - One Bedroom
 - Allocated parking
 - EPC - C, Double Glazing
- OFFERS AROUND: **£69,000**

Clary Grove Walsall



- Modern End Terrace Residence in a cul de sac location
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - No Upward Chain
- OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**

Smithfield Road Walsall



- Spacious Semi Detached with No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Porch • Reception Hallway
 - EPC TBC, Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£124,950**

Woodstock Close Walsall



- Mid Terrace Residence with No Upward Chain
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Porch
 - EPC TBC, Through Lounge/Diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£115,000**

Biddlestone Grove Walsall



- Modern End Terrace with further potential for extensions (subject to planning permission)
 - No Upward Chain
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- OFFERS AROUND: **£119,950**

Cobden Street Walsall



- Middle Terrace Residence
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - No Upward Chain
 - EPC Rating TBC, Hallway
- OFFERS AROUND: **£89,995**

Drayton Street Walsall



- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
 - No Upward Chain!
 - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 - EPC Rating E, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£100,000**

Albany Crescent Bilston



- Semi Detached
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Lounge
 - EPC = TBC, Conservatory
- OFFERS AROUND: **£84,995**

Leighton Road Bilston



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
 - No upward chain
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£80,000**

Jenny Close Bilston



- Semi detached
 - 3 Bedroom
 - Cul-de-sac
 - EPC - TBC, Driveway
- OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**

Broadstone Avenue Walsall



- Truly Delightful Semi Detached Residence
 - Must Be Viewed to Appreciate the accommodation on offer
 - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**

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Montgomery Road Bentley



Offers around £116,995

A good size three bedroom family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Energy rating D.

Bentley Drive Walsall



Offers around £120,000

A superb, improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, two double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Hilton Road Willenhall



Offers around £95,000

A well presented three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, fitted kitchen/diner, guest W.C., lounge, three bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens and communal parking area. Energy rating C.

Laneside Gardens Walsall



Offers around £104,950

An improved, upgraded and refurbished three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen diner, guest W.C., 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom, front and rear gardens. Internal viewing is a must to appreciate what the property has to offer. Energy rating D.

Mistletoe Drive Tamebridge



Offers around £110,000

A two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a sort after estate in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and two parking spaces. Energy rating D.

Wordsworth Road Willenhall



Offers around £115,000

A well presented 3 bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge/diner, refitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Franchise Gardens Wednesbury



Offers around £80,000

A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, guest W.C., fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and separate garage. Energy rating D.



Caldmore Road Calmore



Offers around £75,000

A well presented two bedroom second floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge/diner, family bathroom with electric shower, two bedrooms, communal garden, intercom and allocated parking. Energy Rating B.

Hollyhedge Lane Walsall



Offers around £250,000

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Ashmore Lake Road Willenhall



Offers around £109,995

A superb improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy Rating E

Wolverhampton Street Willenhall



Offers around £125,000

A good sized three bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, 3 double bedrooms and front and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Wolverhampton Street Willenhall



Offers around £145,995

A good sized and extended three bedroom semi detached family home filled with character and benefiting from UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Energy rating E.

Ryle Street Bloxwich



Offers around £99,995

A very well presented extended 3 bedroom semi detached family home with no upward chain. The property boasts an entrance porch, good sized living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom on the ground floor and a modern shower room on the first floor. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.



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Offers around £134,950

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Pooles Lane Willenhall



Offers around £132,995

A good size three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and no upward chain. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, guest W.C., 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, spacious rear garden, off road parking for around 4-5 vehicles. Energy rating E.

Blackthorne Road Walsall



Offers around £128,000

A three bedroom semi detached family home on a corner plot having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen diner, guest W.C., three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating D.



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BMW sport convertible perfect car for cruise to the Med

By Ian Donaldson

Time to dream. A distant aunt leaves you a modest fortune in her will and you don't need her unexpected windfall for practical purposes.

That means the roof doesn't leak, the kids are buying their first homes (lucky youngsters) and you manage very nicely on your salary check.

But you've always rather fancied a smart set of wheels; something just a little bit special.

The sort of car that turns heads and makes you dream of heading for some sun and a smart little hotel on the French Riviera.

Well, if your surprise inheritance runs to a little less than £60,000 you could be putting the latest big BMW on your shortlist of pleasurable playthings.

It would certainly be an indulgence, especially in the convertible form you see here.

Part of the newly revised 6 Series range, you can choose from a fixed roof Coupe (from £59,430) or take a Convertible, which robs the already limited rear legroom and costs £5,900 more.

Or, for the same price as the fixed head car, there's the rather rakish four door Gran Coupe, with extra space in the back.

You wouldn't buy any of them for purely practical reasons; BMW makes much less costly cars that will fit family duties much better.

You go for a 6 Series because you want one – and can afford to feed your indulgence.

Now the range grows a little more tempting with a host of upgrades aimed at making the cars a bit more economical (a relative term here), look a little sharper and feel and act rather more the luxury machines they already were.

Leather

Styling changes are so subtle only the owner of an old one is likely to notice, confined to modest reworkings of front and rear metalwork and lights and different alloy wheels.

Inside, there is even more leather than before (now taking in the dashboard), along with flashes of high gloss black.

On a more practical level, what BMW calls ConnectedDrive is now standard. This includes navigation and infotainment and keeps the driver informed about traffic problems and can even reserve your hotel room (I didn't try that one).

Under the bonnet, small tweaks have produced a bit more economy from the diesel engine and smaller of the three petrol engines offered. The latter trio now have a loud button that adds an edge to the exhaust note when you're feeling a little sporty.

None of the newcomers is destined to be a big seller, even if they add lustre and useful profits to the BMW brand. The UK took 2,830 versions of the 6 Series last year, with about half of them the more practical Gran Coupe.

So whichever model your windfall lands on, it will remain a rare car. That, of course, is part of its attraction.

So too is the way a sunny day tempts you to purr back the roof on the convertible and enjoy the sunshine. With windows up and rear mesh wind deflector in place (£290) there's enough protection to produce a pleasantly gentle breeze at a motorway cruise.

Even at a crawl the big diesel engine never intrudes and provides all the performance you could crave, while showing 34mpg on my modestly mild test route.

Yes, the car is big enough to make country lanes a bit of a pain and the suspension (tuned with a £2,795 M Sport package) banged into potholes but it will make a fine waffer when there are miles to be covered before the sun goes down on the terrace of that little hotel on the Med.

TESTED

BMW 640d M Sport Convertible

Engine: 309bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 miles

Economy: The BMW 6 Series can do 50.4mpg

Insurance: 50

Price: £71,530

Incarnation seven for Vauxhall's new Astra

By James Parker

Vauxhall has revealed images of the all-new seventh-generation Astra, which will reach production later this year at the company's Ellesmere Port manufacturing plant in Cheshire.

Based on an all-new lightweight vehicle architecture with a new design, powertrains and technology, Astra will receive its world premiere at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September.

The Astra is a household name for British car buyers with over 2.9 million sold in the UK over the last 36 years with over 50,000 last year.

Depending on the model and trim level it will be up to 200kg (130kg on average) lighter than its predecessor. The completely new vehicle architecture plays a major role in the weight reduction. Every component was checked for compact design and lightweight materials. The body shell weight alone was reduced by 20 per cent from 357kg to 280kg.

Additional, chassis-related measures resulted in a further 50kg weight loss. These include high-strength and ultra-high-strength low-weight steels, compact subframes as well as weight reductions to the front and rear axle.

Engines

The all-new Astra features a powertrain including petrol and diesel units ranging from 100PS to 200PS. The highlight of the engine range is the all-new 1.4-litre (145PS) ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo, a four-cylinder unit from the same family as the one-litre, three-cylinder engine seen in Corsa, ADAM and VIVA.

The engine delivers maximum torque of up to 250Nm, with maximum power available between 1,800rpm and 4,000rpm.

Based on its construction, the new 1.4 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo also adds less weight to the car. The aluminium engine block weighs in at 10kg less than the cast-iron block of the current 1.4-litre turbo. There's also a base-level 1.0 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo (105PS) petrol engine and a 1.6 CDTi 'Whisper Diesel' range with outputs starting from 110PS up to 160PS.

Inspired by 2013's Monza Concept, the lean design makes the new Astra look more athletic than before thanks to work carried out by a design team led by Brit Mark Adams.

The most significant design cue is the divided C-pillar, creating the impression of a floating roof. The interplay of light and shadow is emphasised by the horizontal crossbar above the brand logo linking the rear lights.

The Astra does not just look smaller – it is smaller. With a total length of 4.37m it is almost 5cm shorter than its predecessor. With a height of 1.46m it is also 2.6cm lower. The dimensions have an impact on aerodynamics and efficiency with the new Astra boasting a drag coefficient below 0.30.

The wheelbase may have been reduced by 2cm but the amount of space inside increased. In combination with newly-designed seats, the passengers in the rear can enjoy an additional 35mm legroom. The distance between the front- and rear-seats is increased providing comfort and space.

Aesthetic

The high-quality cockpit and the instrument panel transfer the characteristic and aesthetic exterior design to the interior, ensuring that a new interior design generation is introduced in the new Astra. It features a clean look which includes a large colour touchscreen in the centre stack and reduced amount of control switches and buttons.

The new Astra is the first new Vauxhall model that will be available with the personal connectivity and service assistant OnStar from its launch. OnStar also turns the new Astra into a 4G LTE mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. Up to seven devices, from smartphones to tablets, can be connected simultaneously.

Making its debut in new Astra is the new generation IntelliLink infotainment system that is compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. The functions can be controlled via the large, up to eight-inch touchscreen located high on the center stack, via remote control on the steering wheel (volume) or via voice control.

The all-new Brit-built Astra will be the first Vauxhall to get glare-free IntelliLux LED Matrix Light. Bringing premium technology to the mainstream, these new LED headlights provide outstanding night time performance enhancing safety for the driver and those around them.

Another advantage is that mechanical movements are no longer necessary in the headlight – the individual LED segments turn on or off according to the situation, which also contributes to a durability that far exceeds the lifespan of a car.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Astra Excite 1.4, 5dr: Urban: 38.2 (7.4), Extra-urban: 57.7 (4.9), Combined: 48.7 (5.8). CO₂ emissions: 136g/km.*

Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Excite 1.4i 5dr in Power Red from £17,920 on the road. Offer price £12,595. Offer available on orders or registrations from 8 April to 1 July 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. *Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (L/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown for illustrative purpose only. Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES Plus 5 dr – cost when new £15,395. Terms and Conditions: 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years Complimentary Servicing includes: all scheduled servicing as detailed in the vehicle service book for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Complimentary Servicing: £930 saving is only available on vehicles purchased through Honda Aspirations. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the cover remains with the vehicle. Offer available between the 1st June 2015 and 30th June 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.

New Volvo XC90 offers a serious challenge

By Ian Donaldson

When the first XC90 appeared in the UK back in 2002 some potential buyers admired this trendsetting new SUV in the showroom, before telling Volvo dealers ‘it’s not expensive enough’.

Which shows there are always people with more money than sense. The company bonus culture was responsible and Volvo had never experienced anything like it.

How did the sensible Swedes react? They quickly developed a UK-only version with all the bells and whistles on board, at a price that over-compensated company buyers thought let everyone know they could afford one – easily.

No such problem with the all new XC90, built high and handsome in a gently understated way and priced from £47,750 to £63,705. Nobody would describe that as underpricing, but do you get what you pay for?

The short answer is yes; buyers who head for the XC90 at the bottom of the price ladder will not only be buying by far the expected most popular version, but they’ll end up with a car that comes well enough equipped to need little else adding.

That’s rather rare in a part of the market where car makers know there is a large fortune to be made from the options’ list. More of that later.

Let’s look at the newcomer in more detail. It is that genuinely rare machine – a vehicle new from tip to stern, with new engines.

The whole thing must have cost Volvo’s Chinese owners a large fortune to design and develop.

Just as well it was worth it.

Built in Sweden, it radiates subtle Nordic charm in a way that a rival like BMW’s X5 would hardly comprehend. Elegant good taste emanates from everything, taking in a bold new grille and body lines deliberately kept simple.

Quality

Inside, the good taste continues, beautiful build quality obvious everywhere and a mere eight buttons indicating that all the other controls, for things like sound system, heating and ventilation and the satellite navigation have been loaded onto a big, clear touchscreen.

Every XC90 destined for the UK, for the moment at least, will have all-wheel drive, automatic transmission and seven seats, with enough room in row three for two adults up to 5ft 7in tall. All seven seats have thinner than usual seat backs, without sacrificing any of the long-distance comfort long associated with Volvo, and helping free up useful extra leg room.

Calling the least expensive Momentum level ‘basic’ does the car much less than justice, as it comes with all of the above, as well as a tailgate that opens with a waggle of a foot below the rear bumper, a multiple-adjustable and electrically-powered driver’s seat and leather trim.

And don’t forget a 10-speaker sound system and big, 19in alloy wheels too. So, miles away from basic in anyone’s language.

Pay more and there are things like bigger wheels and added styling flourishes, but the entry level will suit most people just fine.

So will the new diesel engine, that pulls quietly and has enough pep to push this big car along at a satisfying lick, recording a reasonable 34mpg in the process on some demanding North Yorkshire roads.

Rather quicker still and dearer (from £53,745 for an Inscription model) is a petrol engine with 320 horsepower and the ability to explore licence losing speeds very easily, recording an indifferent 26mpg in the process.

They won’t sell a lot of those.

The diesel is a different matter. Here is a very serious new contender if you want a big SUV in your life.

Attractive newcomer setting new standards

By James Parker

ŠKODA is once again making its mark with the new ŠKODA Superb. Just months after the debut of the hatchback, comes the new ŠKODA Superb Estate. Based on innovative MQB technology, this attractive newcomer sets new standards in its segment in terms of space, comfort, safety and connectivity. The new ŠKODA Superb Estate has the largest interior space and luggage compartment in its class. The total boot volume is nearly 2,000 litres. At the same time, the new and expressive ŠKODA design transforms the new-generation model into a stylish estate with dynamic elegance.

"With the new ŠKODA Superb Estate, we have further developed the existing strengths of the Superb and once again set a benchmark. With its expressive, dynamic design, we are emphasising and complementing ŠKODA's expertise in the estate segment," said Dr Frank Welsch, ŠKODA board member for technical development. "The combination of aesthetics, top-of-the range technology and the highest practical benefits makes the new Superb Estate an outstanding vehicle within its segment. With the new flagship, we will attract new customers to our brand," said Welsch.

Worldwide

ŠKODA has offered an estate version of its top model, the ŠKODA Superb, since 2009. To date, ŠKODA has delivered more than 200,000 ŠKODA Superb Estate models to customers worldwide. This represents 35 per cent of all ŠKODA Superbs sold since 2009.

The new ŠKODA Superb Estate offers the best interior space in its segment. It is based on MQB technology, with a wheelbase that has been extended by 80mm to 2,841mm. The track width has increased to 1,584mm at the front and to 1,572mm at the rear. The result: even more interior space. In the latest model, driver and passenger have 39mm more elbow room than before.

Headroom in the front is 995mm and 1,001mm in the rear – more than in any other model in the segment. Rear knee-room is 157mm – around twice as much as the next-best competitor. Elbow room in the rear has been increased by 70mm.

Impressive

The boot volume also sets a new benchmark: 660 litres, representing an increase of 27 litres compared to the previous model. When the back seats are folded down, the boot volume reaches an impressive 1,950 litres.

The design of the new ŠKODA Superb Estate makes a powerful statement. The design is more passionate, modern and emotionally charged than ever before.

The use of MQB technology also plays a central role when it comes to styling: the longer wheelbase, the shortened front overhang as well as the widened track provide balanced proportions and create the car's extremely dynamic and sporty impression.

In combination with increased vehicle length, a long wheelbase, shortened front overhang, a sweeping roof line and a steeply angled rear window, the silhouette evolves as a stylistically confident, perfect entity. The front and rear are expressive and unmistakably ŠKODA.

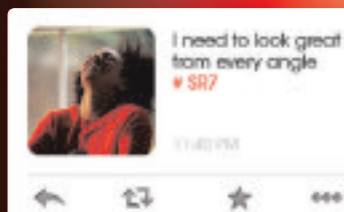
The new ŠKODA Superb Estate comes with a veritable armada of new assistance systems for increased safety, eco-friendliness and comfort. Like the Superb hatchback, the new Superb Estate also features Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC).

Thanks to the new EU6 engines, the latest edition is more powerful and at the same time up to 30 per cent more efficient than its predecessor.

Connectivity reaches a new level of quality: the latest generation of infotainment systems automatically connects to all standard smartphones via SmartLink (MirrorLink™, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto technology). The optional high-speed internet connection turns the new Superb Estate into a ŠKODA hotspot on wheels.

In September, the new ŠKODA Superb Estate will make its motor show debut at the 66th International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, Germany.

The new model will be launched into the first markets in the same month, while UK ŠKODA retailers will start taking orders from June.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia 'SR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – (3.3), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 78.5 (3.6). CO₂ Emissions are 149 – 94g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Models shown: Kia Rio 3-dr 'SR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £10,845 including £1,000 customer saving, Kia Cee'd 'SR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £14,650 including £1,000 customer saving and Kia Picanto 'SR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,610 including metallic paint with £700 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. *3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'SR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2015 and 30/06/2015. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Brindley (Wolverhampton) 55 Penn Road Wolverhampton, WV2 4WW 01902 717702. E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.



Crossover more rider friendly

By John Griffiths

Motorcycling isn't, for most riders, simply about getting from A to B: it's about the way you do it, the sense of adventure.

That may at least partly explain while the 'adventure' class of machine is one of the fastest growing sectors of the market (apart from scooters and small capacity commuter bikes), taking the place of the former dream-dominating supersport bikes.

It could be said BMW started the trend, with the soaring success of its 1200 GS which followed the round the world adventures of Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman on a pair of the big boxer twins. Honda was quick to react with its 1,200cc Crosstourer and its small sibling, the Crossrunner.

This latter machine is officially the VFR800X, because under its sharp, adventure styling are all the essential elements of the legendary VFR 800 sports tourer, with its fuel-injected 800cc VTEC motor, transmission and brakes.

Technically the major differences are in ground clearance and suspension, recognising that one of the reasons for buying an adventure bike is that riders may want to venture off the smooth asphalt and onto rougher surfaces.

The Crossrunner first appeared in 2011, but has undergone a transformation for this model year. True to its name, it includes upgrades first seen on the latest VFR 800 launched last year, in particular a revised engine, chassis, a new traction control system, LED headlights, a more upright riding position and an automatic turn signal canceller.

The VTEC system uses two cam profiles, for high and low revs, to optimise torque across the rev range, with a maximum power output of 104bhp at 10,250rpm but maximum torque of 75Nm rather lower down the band. It's mated to a smooth-shifting six-speed transmission.

You can feel it in action. Acceleration off the mark is swift enough, and for most of the time the bike performs well enough for most conditions at relatively low rpm. But once you approach the 6,000rpm mark you can feel an extra push and hear a deeper growling from the exhaust: it comes in smoothly and progressively.

The new traction control system has three settings and instantly reduces torque if the back wheel starts to spin. A boon for off-landers, but equally useful on wet roads for those a bit too enthusiastic with the throttle: you don't feel the intervention but you'll know it's happening by the flashing symbol on the instrument panel.

The brakes are the same as the sports tourer, with twin 310mm discs at the front and a 265mm disc at the rear and two-channel ABS,

Handling

The Crossrunner's seat is height adjustable and its shape has been redesigned – it's now narrower at the front to help shorter riders get their feet flat on the floor when you stop.

It has particularly wide bars set at just the right height for a comfortable, upright riding position and quick to respond to rider input, with extra leverage and low yaw inertia.

The Crossrunner handles well for a tall, adventure style bike, feeling particularly well balanced for a machine weighing in at 242kg. This is partly due to its narrow profile with its V4 power plant, with even the new high efficiency radiators (based on Honda's RC45 race special) now in front of the engine, instead of on either side.

Twisty roads are its forte, and it doesn't take long to appreciate its accurate tracking, with a light feel more akin to a nippy little 500 than a big touring machine.

The new, adjustable screen and redesigned bodywork provide reasonable protection from the elements, and you get five-stage heated grips to keep young fingers toasty. The new, high efficiency generator is designed to ensure such creature comforts don't lead to a flat battery.

The major technical difference between the VFR sports tourer and this X version is in the suspension, which has a whole 25mm of extra travel at the front (and 28mm at the back) for those attempting a rougher track. Both are fully adjustable, which for me is just as well for I found the standard setting a bit too hard for my tastes on the road.

The 17-inch aluminium wheels take 120/70 rubber at the front and 180/55 at the rear. Honda's own security system is standard, but an alarm is on the list of optional extras along with a rear carrier and an assortment of luggage.

Mechanically, there's few better starting points from a new class of bike than Honda's VFR800 and a raft of improvements have made this second generation Crossrunner a more rider-friendly machine.

The redesigned, height adjustable seat, handlebars, comprehensive digital instruments, heated grips and traction control form a package which is more than the sum of its parts, producing a more comfortable rideable machine.

That's particularly important in this class of bike, often bought by those for whom long distance touring is almost a way of life.

That's in addition to the upright 'command' riding position which enables you to get the best possible view of the road ahead: and on this bike the best view behind, too, with the extra wide bars allowing mirrors which reflect rather more than the rider's elbows.

The 2015 Crossrunner costs from £10,299.

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4 Pets & Animals

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CROWN MOTORS Closing down clearance trade sale. Lots of bargains. 07585 664389. WV14 8AA.
FORD FIESTA 1.4TDCI ZETEC, 2003, 120,000 miles, blue, electric windows, abs, CD player, alloys, fsh, £30 road tax, £1,095. 07873 614937
HONDA ACCORD Etec, SE Auto, 2000 model, MoT every year, very good condition, very nice car £250. 07850 474193.
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Telephone 07741 437078.
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RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE, 1.9DCI, 03 reg, spares or repair, blown turbo reason for low price, £300. 0121 556 5275.
RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC PRIV MONACO 1.6
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£995.
01785 601441 / 07837 213990.
RENAULT SCENIC 1.4 Silver, W reg, MoT Nov, 112,000 miles. £375. 01543 878911.
VAUXHALL ASTRA 2006, 1.6cc twin port, all electric, excellent condition/runner, all MoT's from new, MoT Sept, £1,495. 07445 709081.
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NISSAN MICRA Visa Plus, December 2008, 1240cc, met red, MoT Feb 16, pas, SH, EW, good condition £2,600. 07476 370871.
PEUGEOT 107 KISS, 2008, 64,000 miles, black, abs, e/w, air bag, alarm, MoT, c/l, pas, CD, ideal first car, excellent condition. £2,595 ono. 07887 848196.
PEUGEOT 307CC Convertible, black, 2L, 4,800 miles from new, full MoT and service, £3,500 ono. 0121 526 4793.
PEUGEOT 308 1.6 08 plate, 5dr, blue, C/P, PAS, lady owner, full MoT, very good condition, £4,500. 07466 108357 or 0121 246 2413.
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9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

15/0732/FI Notemachin UK Ltd. FOR: Retrospective- Alterations to shopfront to install ATM and surrounding white composite panel. AT: 40 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1HR

15/0731/AD Notemachin UK Ltd. FOR: Retrospective- Display of illuminated lettering for ATM and LED halo illuminated to ATM surround. AT: 40 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1HR

*** 15/0455/FI** Calderfields Golf Club FOR: Driving range and 9-hole academy golf course and associated facilities. AT: LAND ADJACENT TO CALDERFIELDS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, ALDRIDGE ROAD, WALSALL, WS4 2JS

The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION - 7 MAY 2015		
WALSALL NORTH, WALSALL SOUTH AND ALDRIDGE BROWNHILLS CONSTITUENCIES		
I the undersigned, being Acting Returning Officer for the above constituencies, do hereby give notice that I have received the returns and declarations as to expenses of the following candidates and election agents:		
Constituency	Candidate	Election Agent
Walsall North	William Nigel Jones	Royston Mark Sheward
	Peter Edward Smith	David Church
Walsall South	Raymond Douglas Hansen Luke	John Young
	Michael John Harrison	Clare Morgan
Aldridge-Brownhills	Elizabeth Anne Hazell	Stephen Craddock
	David Julian Winnick	Patricia Young
Aldridge-Brownhills	Susan Pauline Arnold	Peter Hryhoruk
	Derek Bennett	Own Agent
Aldridge-Brownhills	Joel Jay William Kenrick	Royston Mark Sheward
	Charlotte Jayne Fletcher	Clare Morgan
Aldridge-Brownhills	Valerie Carol Marian Vaz	Ian Robertson
	Ian Anthony George Garrett	Royston Mark Sheward
Aldridge-Brownhills	John Gary Fisher	Barbara Cassidy
	Wendy Morton	Christopher Richards
Aldridge-Brownhills	Mark William Beech	Own Agent
	Martyn Joshua Curzey	Clare Morgan
Aldridge-Brownhills	Anthony Stephen Geoffrey Thompson	Philip James Howell

All returns and declarations (including accompanying documents) can be inspected at the Electoral Registration Office during normal office hours for the period of the next 2 years.

Electoral Registration Office
Ground Floor, Council House
Lichfield Street, Walsall
WS1 1AE

Paul Sheehan
Acting Returning Officer

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application has been made by Sumara Javid to the Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, at Walsall Council, for a new Premises Licence in respect of premises to be known as: New Alisha Polski Sklep, 74 Bradford Street, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 3QD.

The application includes the following terms:

1. To enable the sale of alcohol between Monday-Sunday 08.00 - 22.00 for consumption off the premises.

Full details of the application may be viewed at the Council Offices, Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP during normal office hours Monday to Friday. (www.walsall.gov.uk).

Responsible Authorities or other persons, can make written representations regarding the application, to the above Licensing Authority, and they must be received no later than 14th July 2015.

It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application and on the summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

BRIAN MARTIN BAYLISS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 4 Astoria Close Willenhall West Midlands WV12 5XP, who died on 26/03/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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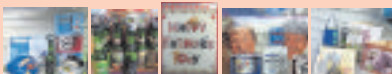
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Fox is fairly confident Benteke will stay at Villa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Tom Fox is 'fairly certain' Christian Benteke will stay at Villa after confirming the striker will be offered a new contract.

The Belgium hitman's future is the subject of fervent speculation, with boss Tim Sherwood having revealed a release clause of £32.5million in the 24-year-old's current deal, which has two years left to run.

Benteke's agent Eric Kismet has claimed the striker wants to play for a club who have qualified for Europe next season but Fox is hopeful Villa can stave off the suitors and keep a player who scored 12 goals in his final 13 games of the campaign.

"We are obviously going to offer him (Benteke) a new contract in the summer," said Fox. "He's a fantastic player and one of the top strikers in the Premier League and I think he is someone who is recognised around the world as one of the top strikers.

"His goals in the second half of the season were fundamental to us staying up.

"He has got a good relationship with everyone at the club. I know him and Tim have a great working relationship, so our hope is we can keep him. I haven't had any conversations with him.

"I know he's got two years left on his deal as a starting point, so I am fairly certain we can have him back next year if we want."

Fox hopes Benteke, who is currently away on international duty with Belgium, will follow the example of Villa captain Fabian Delph who committed his own future to the club by signing a four-and-half year deal in January."

McAuley sets benchmark for Baggies

GARETH MCAULEY has set Albion a 50-point Premier League target after penning a new one-year contract.

The 35-year-old has signed up for next season after the Baggies beat off competition from top-flight rivals Leicester to keep the popular defender.

And McAuley is eyeing cup success and international glory as well.

"Next season with Albion is about having a positive season, possibly getting past the 50-point-mark, which we haven't managed to so in the four seasons I've had here, and also good cup runs," said the Northern Ireland stopper. "We were within touching distance last year.

"And with Northern Ireland we've got a massive couple of months coming up at the start of next season, where we've got the chance to get to the European Championships."

McAuley was out of contract at the end of last season with the Foxes keen to take him back to the King Power Stadium.

Pelsall become the regional champions

PELSALL withstood a valiant Himley effort to become regional champions and move one step closer to Lord's in the National Village Cup.

A late flourish in the Pelsall innings propelled them to 243-7 and Himley were bowled out for 206 in reply.

It gave Birmingham League Division Three side Pelsall the Shropshire, Staffordshire and West Midlands crown.

They will play the winners of the Northamptonshire section on June 28. Pelsall are just four victories away from the Lord's final in September.

A solid start from openers Richard Marsh and Paul Grainger ended with Marsh run out for 19, but Todd Henderson hit 33 as he and Grainger (36) put on 48.

Berahino is maturing – Southgate

ENGLAND Under-21s boss Gareth Southgate has paid tribute to Saido Berahino's growing maturity.

Southgate has hailed the Baggies' striker for learning from mistakes as the pair gear up for the Young Lions' 2015 tournament in the Czech Republic.

England complete their preparations with a friendly at Barnsley tonight against Belarus with Berahino hoping to recapture the form that saw him hit 10 goals in qualifying.

And ahead of England opening their campaign with a game against Portugal, Southgate has praised Berahino's off-field improvements.

The 21-year-old's early career has been dogged

by controversy including newspaper stories about inhaling a 'legal high', a dressing-room bust-up with team-mate James Morrison and a road ban for drink-driving.

But Southgate said: "We are lucky. It's a bit like having grandkids as you can give them back at the end of 10 days so we get less of those issues that club managers have to deal with.

"But he has been a pleasure to work with. Listen, it's clear there have been a couple of dips off the field in the last year.

"What I like about him is that there is always recognition. There is never a denial.

"This year he got himself physically right in

pre-season, he got himself in great shape.

"The reward was getting in West Brom's first team.

"You hope as time goes on there are fewer dips and then none at all. He has got a fantastic chance of being a top player."

Everton defender John Stones has returned to Barnsley, two-and-a-half years after leaving Oakwell in the £3m deal that took him to Goodison Park.

And Southgate is backing Stones to be a key player in the tournament after stepping down from the full England setup to link up with the Young Lions.

"They are all individuals but in terms of that comfort on the ball, Rio Ferdinand had that."

Downing ready to fight for his spot

DEFENDER Paul Downing has vowed to fight for his place in Walsall's first team after suffering Wembley woe and ending the season on the substitutes' bench.

The 23-year-old featured 45 times for Dean Smith's men in the 2014/15 campaign but lost his place in the starting XI following defeat to Bristol City in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. Downing was forced to watch from the sidelines as Smith opted to pair James Chambers and James O'Connor at centre-back throughout April.

And the former Albion trainee admits being dropped wasn't an experience he enjoyed.

"Losing my place in the team has made me very hungry over the summer," Downing said.

"I'll be working very hard to try to regain my spot.

"No player likes being on the bench – playing every week you're in the same routine so it's a bit different when you're not playing.

"It's made me more determined that when the season starts I'm back in the team.

"I think, with one or two additions, we can really progress in the league next season and I am determined to be a part of it."

Cement

Downing said he knows what areas he needs to improve if he is going to cement himself in Smith's plans once again.

"I'm working hard to keep improving," he said.

"I can improve and attack the ball better in both boxes and I think I need to start scoring a few goals.

"The manager said to me I need to score more goals.

"As a team we didn't score enough and if we can have a few of us chipping in with some good numbers, that's going to help us win games.

"That's the one area where I really need to work on."

Following the departure of keeper Richard O'Donnell, Downing also feels it is vital the club bring in a glovesman this summer who is ready to compete for the No.1 jersey.

"We don't want to be having lots of loan keepers because it's such an important part of the team," he said.

"It's important we have a reliable, solid number one keeper. I'm sure the club will be looking to get that sorted."

Rooney and Wilshere are top team



Jack Wilshere celebrates after scoring goal No.2 with Wayne Rooney who scored the winner

ROY Hodgson saluted Wayne Rooney and Jack Wilshere after they fired England to a thrilling 3-2 win over Slovenia.

After last week's dull goalless draw against the Republic of Ireland, England answered their critics with a breathtaking 3-2 win in Ljubljana on Sunday.

The victory, which cements England's comprehensive lead

at the top of their Euro 2016 qualifying group, meant England ended the season unbeaten for the first time in 24 years.

Wilshere's first two goals – in response to Milivoje Novakovic's opener – put England ahead for the first time, but Nejc Pecnik stepped off the bench to score what he thought was an equaliser six minutes from time.

But just two minutes later, shortly after receiving an elbow in the face from Bostjan Cesar, Rooney kept his nerve to capitalise on a mis-timed tackle from Bojan Jokic and slide the ball past Samir Handanovic.

The winning goal put Rooney just one goal shy of Sir Bobby Charlton's 49-goal record.

The Saddlers managed just 50 goals in the League One last season with only Fleetwood, Crews and relegated Notts County and Yeovil finding the target less.

That lack of fire power lead to Smith's men registering 17 draws throughout the 2014/15 campaign – more than any other team in the division.

And now Smith has told the likes of the Romaine Sawyers, Jordan Cook, Anthony Forde and James Baxendale that a huge 12 months lies ahead with their contracts set to expire next summer.

"It's a big season for a lot of them," Smith said.

"I have individual meetings with all the players at the end of the season and ask them how they think they've done. Then I tell them how I feel they have done.

"I have told a few of them what they need to work on A lot of them are out of contract. Cook, Forde, Baxendale and Romaine."

"It is a massive season for them because we are determined to move forward and they need to improve if they want to come along as well."

Smith also expects youngsters Liam Kinsella, Jordan Murphy, Rico Henry and Reece Flanagan to kick on next season.

Gifted and powerful Deslandes is signed up

STRONG, powerful, quick and technically gifted – that's the Wolves verdict on French teenage signing Sylvain Deslandes.

The 18-year-old defender has been snapped up as one for the future after joining from French top-flight side Caen. Deslandes can play at left-back or in central defence and has signed a two-year contract with an option for another season.

He will link up with his new team-mates on July 1 when his Caen contract expires. A French youth international, Deslandes will initially be with the under-21 squad for next season.

He has hailed the move as a 'dream come true' and spoke of his amazement at the facilities on offer at Molineux and Compton Park.

"I am very happy," he said. "It's a dream for me to come to England and I'm delighted with the confidence the club have shown in me.

"I've never seen facilities like the ones here at Wolves, they are top of the range."

Deslandes is Wolves' second signing of the summer after Portsmouth midfielder Jed Wallace.

And there are likely to be more to come with Kenny Jackett keen to add first team players before the transfer window shuts.

Wolves have been scouting Deslandes for a while and believe he has the right characteristics to succeed.

Head of football development and recruitment Kevin Thelwell said: "He's a player we've seen a lot of playing for Caen and the French national teams. He's got pace, he's powerful, he's strong, he's got good technique."

Hennessy is happy with Palace spot

FORMER Wolves goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey says he knows about interest from Albion – but insists he remains happy at Crystal Palace.

Baggies boss Tony Pulis is keen to be reunited with the Wales international, who he took to Selhurst Park in January 2014.

But the 28-year-old is insisting publicly that he wants to stay with the Eagles and battle with Julian Speroni for the No.1 jersey despite a frustrating time last season.

"I've had people telling me about interest from West Brom," said Hennessey.

"I've got two years left at Palace so I'm happy. I played the last couple of games so hopefully I can start next season.

"My season didn't start very well. I'd have liked to have been playing, but I've kept myself right.

"I managed to get the last couple of games so I was chuffed. It's been difficult because Julian Speroni has been playing. I'm still quite young for a goalkeeper and I want to be playing as much as I can. "

Delight as Edwards is promoted

ROB EDWARDS is 'delighted and humbled' to be promoted to Wolves' first-team coach after just a year in charge of the club's under-18s.

The former Molineux defender rejoined the club as under-18s coach last summer, having retired from playing in 2013.

The former Welsh international enjoyed a successful first season, leading the team to six straight wins at one stage – a run that included beating Manchester United and Manchester City.

Edwardssaid: "I'm delighted and humbled to be given the opportunity to work alongside Kenny Jackett, Joe Gallen, the rest of the first team staff and the players. I'm pleased the head coach wants to take me as part of his staff and I'm looking forward to being able to help."

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Sherwood closes in on his first deal

TIM SHERWOOD was closing in on his first signing as Villa boss with Micah Richards set to reject Albion, Sunderland and a host of other clubs to join the FA Cup finalists.

The former Manchester City right-back, who spent last season on loan with Serie A club Fiorentina, is a free agent after leaving the Etihad Stadium.

Richards, 26, is a 13-time England international and won two league titles, the FA Cup and the League Cup with City, but last featured for Manuel Pellegrini's side in a home defeat to Wigan in March 2014.

Meanwhile, Villa captain Fabian Delph has urged Christian Benteke to follow his lead – but told Jack Grealish to let his heart decide his international future.

Delph insists he will not try and twist the arm of his 19-year-old claret and blue team-mate when it comes to choosing his international future.

Grealish, who starred in Villa's late season revival, is yet to decide whether to commit his international future to England or the Republic of Ireland.

The Birmingham-born midfielder has appeared for Ireland at youth level but turned down the chance to join up with Martin O'Neill's most recent squad.

And Delph, currently away with the Three Lions squad ahead of Sunday's Euro 2016 qualifier with Slovenia, says it is a decision Grealish must make for himself.

"I'll leave that to him," said Delph. "He's represented Ireland in the younger age groups but it's his decision. I won't be one to put pressure on him."

The Villa skipper is hopeful Benteke will follow his example and sign a new deal at Villa Park.

Delph put pen to paper on a new four-and-a-half year contract in January.

Under-21s victory sends Southgate's boys to Euros

MIDDLESBROUGH defender Ben Gibson scored the late winner as England Under-21s beat Belarus 1-0 at Oakwell.

Gareth Southgate's men dominated their final friendly ahead of Euro 2015 but had to wait until the closing stages to grab the only goal.

They begin their European Championship campaign in the Czech Republic against Portugal next Thursday.

The Young Lions made a bright start and went close a couple of times in the opening 10 minutes.

First Aliaksandr Yanchanka made an important block for Belarus and, from the resulting corner delivered by James Ward-Prowse, Gibson headed wide when he should be hit the target.

Then Berahino had the ball in the net when he poked home a rebound after keeper Uladzislau Vasiluchak had saved from Will Hughes, but the Baggies man was rightly denied by an offside flag.

The hosts continued to make the running, and when Berahino was fed cleverly by Derby's Will Hughes, the Albion striker's firm effort was well saved by Vasiluchak.

Smith Cook-ing up a strike rivalry

WALSALL boss Dean Smith expects Jordan Cook to be competing with Tom Bradshaw for a striking role next season.

The 25-year-old spent the vast majority of the 2014/15 campaign playing on the wing in Smith's preferred 4-2-3-1 formation.

But the Saddlers manager sees the speedy former Sunderland man competing with or playing alongside Bradshaw up front next season. "He has played out wide but I see him more as a centre-forward," Smith said.

"He has helped us playing out there but I do think Jordan has done well when playing up front. I think back to the Oldham game and at

Football

Crawley – he was outstanding.

"He just hasn't found the net as regularly as Tom did. It has been tough for him."

Smith felt Cook's form was hampered after he picked up an ankle injury in a pre-season friendly against Torquay last July.

"When he came in he was like a breath of fresh air, but unfortunately he got injured," the boss said.

"He missed a long period there and it took him a little while to find his feet. Certainly when he

has played up front, when Tom was missing, he did OK.

"I want him competing with Tom or even playing with Tom. That is what I think he can do."

Meanwhile, Smith has confirmed he has spoken to twins Adams and James Chambers about their long-term futures in the game.

The duo, who turn 35 in November, are expected to put pen to paper on a contract extension with the Saddlers when they return from holiday next week.

"It will come to a point – and I have spoken to them about it – when old father time kicks in," Smith said.

MANTOM RIGHT BEHIND SMITH

WALSALL midfielder Sam Mantom is confident boss Dean Smith will bolster his squad with quality additions this summer.

The creative schemer, who missed the majority of the last campaign with a knee injury, believes adding the right players will see the Saddlers mount a promotion charge.

Chief executive Stefan Gamble has already confirmed Smith has been given an increased transfer budget for next season as the club aims for a top-six finish.

And Mantom is delighted to see the board back their manager.

"It's nice to hear the gaffer is going to have a bigger budget," he said.

"It's well known that we have one of the lowest in the league so he's worked wonders on that. With a little bit more cash, who knows what he can produce?"

"The top six has to be the aim but all the players have to do their bit.

"I definitely think it's a realistic but we must get ourselves up there in the early part of the season because once you start chasing it becomes difficult. You don't want to be relying on other teams losing."

Struggled

The Saddlers struggled for goals in League One last season with their total of 50 the fifth lowest in the division. Mantom has high hopes he will chip in next season but told his team-mates they need to do the same.

"I'd like to think I can add a few goals, I got five or six the year before last and it's crucial we score more," he said. "You only have to look at the top sides to see that goals come from all over the pitch, successful teams score at will."

"We can't just rely on one or two people to get the goals because we're never going to get where we want scoring at that ratio. It's up to the gaffer now to bring in a few players of top quality."

Meanwhile, Gamble has confirmed Walsall hope to re-sign Jordy Hiwula after the Manchester City winger impressed on loan last season.

"We'd love to bring him back," Gamble said.

Harrier Yousef wins 10K run



The early leaders of the Aldridge 10km road race. Eventual winner Birchfield Harriers' Yousef Allathaa (383) Orlando Corea (387) and Tipton's Dean Bate (120)

MORE than 300 runners took part in the annual Aldridge 10km road race last weekend.

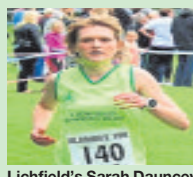
In overcast conditions, Birchfield Harrier's Yousef Allathaa came out on top after a closely fought tussle with team mate Orlando Corea, recording 33 minutes and 31 seconds.

Corea, only two seconds adrift, took second place while Tipton's

Dean Bate finished third in 34:01.

Lichfield's Sarah Dauncey was an emphatic winner of the women's event, crossing the line in 40:59. Rachel Baldock was runner up in 43:19 and Deborah Blakeman took third place in 44:34.

Report and pictures – Brian Aitken



Lichfield's Sarah Dauncey

Wolves will suck up the pressure

WOLVES will embrace the pressure – that was the message from Molineux as the bookies named them among the Championship title favourites.

Wolves are the fourth most-fancied team with many bookmakers after narrowly missing the play-offs last season.

Derby, Hull, Middlesbrough and Burnley join Wolves as the pre-season promotion favourites.

And managing expectations among success-hungry Wolves fans has been a problem for past Molineux managers.

But head of football development and recruitment Kevin Thelwell, who is eyeing up the club's summer transfers, said it was a 'privilege' for the club to have such lofty expectations.

"We work for a big club – and when you work for a big club enough is never enough," he said. "If we were to get promoted to the Premier League we'd have to stay in the Premier League, if we stayed in the Premier League it'd be 'can you get to 12th', if we got to 12th we'd want to get in the top 10, if we got in the top 10 everyone would say, 'we're not that far off Europe are we?'"

"So you've got to embrace the pressure."

"And pressure is a bit of a privilege because there's not many clubs that have the opportunity to achieve what we could achieve."

Wolves will look to dip into the transfer market for some first-team additions over the coming weeks to boost their ranks.

He added: "There'll be pressure, it'll certainly be tough and it'll be made more difficult in terms of the teams coming into the league this year. There are some difficult teams coming up."

Promotion odds: Derby 8/1, Hull 8/1, Middlesbrough 9/1, Wolves 12/1, Burnley 12/1, Brentford 14/1.

Villa takeover could impact new deals

VILLA chief executive Tom Fox has admitted uncertainty over the club's ownership could have an impact on their summer dealings.

Defender Micah Richards is expected to be confirmed as the claret and blues' first new recruit next week on a free transfer.

But Fox has conceded any prolonged takeover could hamper further progress in the transfer market. Owner Randy Lerner had entered a period of exclusivity with a preferred bidder.

Fox said: "Will that have an impact on how we do things and how quickly we do them? I can't tell you that it won't."

★★★

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